

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Manchester Township Municipal Building
1 Colonial Drive, Manchester Township, NJ

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Fox called the Regular Meeting of the Manchester Township Environmental Commission to order with the following statement: "Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with Open Public Meetings Act. Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice was advertised in the Asbury Park Press and the Star Ledger."

Time: 6:00 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

Gabrielle Fox	Present
Peggy Middaugh	Present
William Foor	Present
Karen Argenti	Absent
Dina Newbert	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 22, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Middaugh made a motion to approve the March 22, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Foor.

Roll call vote: Mr. Foor, Ms. Middaugh, Ms. Fox, Ms. Newbert; yes. Ms. Stavallo abstained due to being absent. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ocean County Park Notification

Mr. Foor: They have started opening up the area for the parking lot and tennis court.

Ms. Fox: Looks like there is an adequate buffer.

Ms. Middaugh: How many trees are they taking down?

Mr. Foor: The lot was cleared in the past. The trees that were taken down are relatively small.

Pinelands Notification Letters

Certificate of Filing – Block 99.159, Lots 1 & 2

This notification is in regard to a proposed single-family dwelling; applicant: Habitat for Humanity. No comments.

Public Hearing – Block 109, Lot 5

This notification is regarding the proposed 13,200 s.f. commercial building.

Ms. Middaugh: There are concerns about the Stormwater Management Plan. The Pinelands is on top of this. I'm disturbed by another treed lot.

Determination – Block 99.162, Lot 2

This notification is in regard to a new septic system for a single-family dwelling. No comments.

Resolution – Block 66, Lot 1

This notification is in regard to a proposed water main installation in Lakehurst and parts of Manchester Township. No comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

141 Office Park

Ms. Middaugh: The county approved this application, but the applicant didn't send all of the required documents.

Mr. Foor: We reviewed this application from the Zoning Board of Adjustment and provided comments.

JBMDL Updated Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

Ms. Middaugh: Comments are due 30 days after receipt of the letter, April 20th. Karen suggested requesting an extension.

Mr. Foor: I didn't have time to review the report in full yet. There are five (5) alternatives.

Ms. Fox: The base is not an area of high biodiversity. What are they gaining from an ecological standpoint?

Mr. Foor: The base updates the plan periodically.

Ms. Newbert: They are making this information available to the public by posting it in the library and advertising in the papers.

Mr. Foor: We might consider forwarding to other organizations.

Ms. Middaugh: We can send it to Pinelands Preservation Alliance. They have the means to get it out there if need be.

Green Day – May 18, 2022

Ms. Middaugh: The Green Team is coordinating this event that will be held at Town Hall and includes Rain Garden and Rain Barrel Workshops. It is scheduled for May 18th. There will also be an Electric Vehicle display. There are some vendors lined up.

Ms. Fox: The Watershed Ambassador is expected. I will follow-up with Joe to make sure she is on the list.

Ms. Middaugh: We will have a table setup. We need to talk about what to give out. Joe is interested in having a table with information about the spotted lantern fly. ANJEC will not be coming, but they can loan us some displays; watershed and plastic models, etc. We also need to decide on our table staffing.

Ms. Fox is available after 3:00pm, Ms. Stavallo is available anytime, Ms. Newbert is available after 5:30pm.

Ms. Middaugh offered to set up.

ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Project Grant

Ms. Fox: I don't think we have enough time on this since we would need all the details well in advance of May 2.

Ms. Middaugh: I think we should discuss potential projects this year for next year's grant.

Goals & Objectives 2022

Updates:

GOAL 5: Promote recreational use of open space in Manchester and develop a relationship with the Township's Open Space Committee.

- **Discuss potential open space projects for the 2023 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Project Grant**

GOAL 8: Review and make recommendations on the Township's updated Stormwater Management guidelines, and continue educating the community on the importance of Green Infrastructure.

- Hold one workshop each on rain barrels and rain gardens
 - o Rain Barrel Workshop – May 18, 2022
 - o Rain Garden Workshop – **May 18, 2022**
- Facilitate installation of rain gardens throughout

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rain Barrel Workshop – March 28, 2022 RESCHEDULED

The Rain Barrel Workshop on March 28th at Town Hall will be held at the Green Day event on May 18th.

Plastics Ban – May 4, 2022

The ban takes effect on May 4th. Grocery stores will no longer supply plastic bags.

MEMBER REPORTS:

Ms. Newbert's Report

Ms. Newbert: I attended an ANJEC workshop recently and there was a lot of interesting information. They suggest our goals align with the Township Council's agenda.

Mr. Foor: I had a discussion with the mayor recently; he said he would like us to concentrate on outreach to the community, and I do believe our goals align with the mayor's after our brief discussion. The commissioners are appointed by the mayor.

Ms. Middaugh: Another one of our roles is to review and advise on applications that come before the Planning Board, and sometimes the Zoning Board of Adjustment, where applicable.

Ms. Middaugh's Report

Plastics Ban

Ms. Middaugh: I was on a webinar last week regarding the plastics ban and I think the presenter said that all municipalities had received a grant in 2021 from Clean Communities to help implement the ban. We need to find out if Administration received this grant, and if they have plans. I will wait to reach out to Stop & Shop until I hear back.

Mr. Foor: Councilor Vaccaro has been following the plastics ban from the get-go – he may know about any funding the town might have received.

Ms. Middaugh: The law is enforced by the town; we need a plan.

Mr. Foor: Many stores have displays with bags for sale. The Patch reporter, Bob Vosseller has said in the past, he's happy to post information in The Patch.

JCP&L Energy Efficiency Programs

Ms. Middaugh: JCP&L has offered to come to one of the Commission's meeting to spread the word about their clean energy programs. They would like to have a meeting with community leaders as well.

Mr. Foor: I think we should hear what they have to say before we make recommendations to the Mayor, Council, etc.

The Commissioners will invite JCP&L to the April meeting.

Mr. Foor's Report

Master Plan Committee

Mr. Foor: Previous changes to the Master Plan were submitted to the Pinelands Commission. We are not meeting monthly yet.

Open Space Committee

Mr. Foor: The OSC has not met yet this year. The Hovnanian property appears to have been sold. There is likely a new plan in the making.

Ms. Fox's Report

Ms. Fox: We received an email from resident Jeff Heilbrun about cleaning up Brooksbrae. He is requesting that DPW pick up trash and supply bags on location.

Ms. Stavallo: The person to get in touch with is Al Yodakis, DPW Director. If somebody brings the bags out to the road, DPW may pick them up.

PUBLIC FORUM:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Stavallo and seconded by Ms. Middaugh, the meeting was adjourned. All in favor, motion carried.

Time: 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary