

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 27, 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
William Foor	Present
Karen Argenti	Present
Dina Newbert	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Absent
Christopher Blaine	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Argenti made a motion to approve the November 22, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Newbert.

Roll call vote: Ms. Fox, Ms. Newbert, Mr. Foor, Christopher Blaine and Ms. Argenti; yes.
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of the Environmental Impact Statement for proposed Lennar project on Cherry Street and Lacey Rd. B: 109m L: 14.01-14.02, 15.02

Ms. Argenti opined that all necessary information was included in the EIS provided for review.

Ms. Fox was not happy that all the tree plantings proposed for the project are not native plantings and are not Pinelands trees. This makes them unable to adapt to the pines and the majority will die. She asserted that the tulip trees and sweet gum trees would not survive. She said the pine oaks and the willow oaks might survive but might not. She was also concerned that the trees proposed are not deer friendly plantings either.

Ms. Argenti said that there was no active area indicated on the plans and she wants to see storm water plans.

Ms. Fox explained that the storm water plans are in the plans that were sent by the Commission Secretary via email.

Ms. Argenti wanted the engineer to appear before the Commission to answer questions. She said that she would provide a list of deficiencies to the Engineer and request the same.

Mr. Foor suggested that we have someone from the Zoning Board of Adjustment be appointed to a vacant spot. He also said that he was not sure that having the Engineer come before the Commission to answer questions was appropriate given the time constraints. He felt that provided the comments on the Commission to the Board would be sufficient in this instance.

Ms. Fox felt that the Commission could provide their comments to the Board and request information back.

Ms. Argenti said that she will provide a report within the next two weeks and will have it ready for the January meeting to discuss a Resolution.

Discussion of the historic settlement to restore damaged natural resources at site of former Ciba-Geigy chemical plant in Toms River.

Ms. Argenti said that Toms River would like the affected land to be maintained as Open Space and does not want the land utilized. Manchester was also affected by Ciba-Geigy for approximately 72 acres. She asked about where the area is in Manchester that was affected. The Board Secretary explained approximately where the affected land is. Ms. Argenti spoke about not using the property for solar fields or sewer treatment. Ms. Argenti would like to see the DEP:

1. Hold a public hearing and information session;
2. Provide all documentation about what they have done to the affected area;
3. Assure that Toms River is not responsible for the clean-up;
4. Release all monitoring data and continue to monitor Toms River from Manchester to Barnegat Bay;
and
5. Send a report to Ocean County Environmental Commission.

Ms. Argenti finished by requesting a memo be sent to the Mayor and Council. All members were in favor of sending the memo.

Review of Goals and Objectives from 2022.

- **GOAL 1: Continue working with the Manchester Green Team to achieve Sustainable Jersey Bronze or Silver Certification; participate in “Green Day” event.**

The Commission would like to ask when the “Green Day” event is and would like to combine with Manchester day or similar event. The Township did achieve sustainable NJ. The Commissioners asked that the secretary do a memo to Joe Veni and Tracey Lynch about combining the “Green Day” event with a larger event.

- **GOAL 2: Continue to provide timely recommendations to the Planning Board on Development Applications and Areas in Need of Redevelopment.**

The Commissioners would like to carry this over to the next years Goals and Objectives and continue this important task for 2023.

- **GOAL 3: Improve communication and develop a relationship with the Zoning Board of Adjustment.**

The Commissioners would like to carry this over to the next years Goals and Objectives and continue this important task for 2023.

- **GOAL 4: Continue to hold regular educational presentations on topics of public interest at our meetings.**

The Commissioners would like to carry this over to the next years Goals and Objectives and continue this important task for 2023.

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

The Commissioners would like to carry this over to the next years Goals and Objectives and continue this important task for 2023.

- **GOAL 6: Review and make recommendations on the Township's Master Plan.**

The Commissioners would like to carry this over to the next years Goals and Objectives and continue this important task for 2023.

- **GOAL 7: Review and make recommendations on the Township's updated Stormwater Management guidelines, and continue educating the community on the importance of Green Infrastructure.**

The Commissioners would like to carry this over to the next years Goals and Objectives and continue this important task for 2023.

- **GOAL 8: Organize a cleanup of open space; consider partnering with Pinelands Preservation Alliance.**

The Commissioners would like to carry this over to the next years Goals and Objectives and continue this important task for 2023.

Discussion/approval of proposed meeting dates for 2023.

The Commissioners agreed on the following meeting dates to be confirmed at the Re-Organization meeting in January:

January 24, 2023, February 28, 2023, March 28, 2023, April 25, 2023, May 23, 2023, June 27, 2023, July 25, 2023, August 22, 2023, September 26, 2023, October 24, 2023, November 28, 2023, December 26, 2023

Discussion of Annual Report.

Ms. Fox said that she will work on updating the Annual Report.

Ms. Newbert will update the ongoing project spreadsheet.

The Secretary, Ms. Kisty will update the Goals and Objectives for 2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

MEMBER REPORT:

Mr. Foor's Report

Mr. Foor spoke briefly about using caution about the things that are said on record. Using his recent experience with the Planning Board and the pending litigation there, he reminded the Commission that they are being recorded and that the recordings are accessible via OPRA requests. The commissioners should be careful with their opinions and remember that they are appointed by the Mayor and representative of the Town. Anything said could pose the potential for litigation.

Ms. Argenti's Report: Ms. Argenti wished everyone a Happy Holiday!

Ms. Newbert's Report: Ms. Newbert explained that she was reviewing an application from another town about warehousing and the concerns they voiced. The Board members of that Town and the residents were worried about traffic, aesthetics, children playing and worrying about large trucks. There was a unanimous vote to not have the warehouse.

Ms. Fox's Report: Ms. Fox did attend the Ocean County meeting. She felt it was very insightful and interesting to see what is going on at the county level. They are looking for members and there are actual scientists on the Board.

She also went to Fix our Parks clean up in what is technically Pemberton. There was a really good showing and they picked up a lot of trash.

Mr. Foor added that he attended Kayaking in Barnegat Bay where 1050 people made it through. It was better than triple the previous turnouts and he got to be a part of it.

Ms. Newbert added that they should discuss updating the website and add a link for the Master Plan.

No other reports.

PUBLIC FORUM:

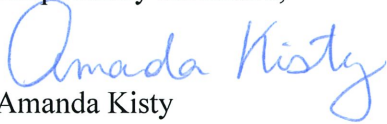
No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 7:21 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Kisty
Commission Secretary