

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 23, 2023
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
Karen Argenti	Absent
Dina Newbert	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Present
William Foor	Present
Christopher Blaine	Absent
Sandra Drake	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve March 28, 2023 Minutes

Gabrielle Fox made a motion to approve the March 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Dina Newbert.

Roll call vote; Ms. Fox, Ms. Newbert and Ms. Stavallo; yes.

Ms. Argenti -Absent

Mr. Blaine – Absent

Ms. Drake- Abstain

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation of Elementary School Earth Day Challenge Awards

Ms. Fox thanked all of the participants in the Elementary School Earth Day Challenge.

Mayor Robert Arace came forward to present the awards to the winners of the Earth Day Challenge. He commented on how well attended the meeting is and explained how he believed the Environmental Commission is incredibly important and plays a large role in shaping the Town. He thanked all of the students and was excited to announce that there were approximately 300 submissions.

All awards were presented.

Ms. Fox thanked everyone for coming and for participating.

Mr. Alex George of the Manchester Township School District approached and thanked the Commission and

Ms. Kisty for administering the contest and he said he looks forward to it for next year.

- Discussion of Ordinance 23-08 Amending Chapters 245 and 267 Zoning Ordinance

Mr. Foor said that last year they had a Master Plan review committee which was looking for areas in the Master Plan that could be cleaned up without changing the Master Plan. The intent was to have the changes done before the end of the year by primarily cleaning up the language in the ordinance by defining what a place of assembly is. There was not too much from a Planning Board perspective or an Environmental Commission perspective.

Ms. Fox asked if there were any changes that were agricultural, and Mayor Arace said no. They were just essentially cleaning up the language in the ordinance.

Mr. Foor explained that much of the changes had to do with the appendices in the back.

- Discussion of Ordinance 23-09 Amending Zoning Map Ordinance

The Commission wanted to know if they could get a full-size print of the Zoning Map update. Mayor Arace would like to update the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Foor opined that the Zoning Map should be better oriented to make it more user friendly.

Discussion of DEP Ordinance for Trees

Ms. Fox explained that the DEP ordinance for trees addresses nuisance trees versus ecologically important trees as well as native versus invasive. It also addresses not clearing trees of a certain size. Ms. Fox thinks that it might be something for Manchester to consider including in our ordinance. This could help in reduce the clearing of land unnecessarily and preventing the planting of invasive species. Mr. Foor said that the comments would have to be received on or before May 12 and Ms. Fox and Ms. Argenti have sent in their comments. Mr. Foor gave Peggy all the information he had about trees in the ordinance and will send more information.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of the outcome of the Town Cleanup

Ms. Fox said she thought it went very well but that they could have had a better turn out.

Mayor Arace left the meeting.

Ms. Fox said they would certainly try again in the Fall and advertise more.

Vote on Ordinance to Amend Code 313-25 Properties and Storefronts, Vacant and Abandoned

Ms. Fox said that she didn't think they needed a vote because they already informed the administration about their proposal and they are good with that.

MEMBER REPORT:

Mr. Foor- Will be attending the Town Council meetings.

Ms. Newbert- Will drop off submissions to the library.

Ms. Stavalo- Wanted to know if they could have a table at Manchester Day.

Ms. Fox- No report.

PUBLIC FORUM:

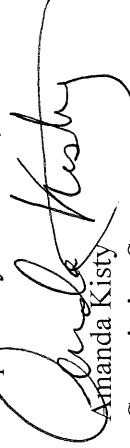
None.

The Public portion was concluded.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Stavalo the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Kisty

Commission Secretary