

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 25, 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	Present
Dina Newbert	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Absent
William Foor	Present
Christopher Blaine	Absent
Sandra Drake	Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve June 27, 2023 Minutes

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the June 27, 2023, Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Argenti.

Roll call vote;

Ms. Fox-yes,
Mr. Foor- yes
Ms. Stavallo- absent.
Ms. Argenti -Yes
Mr. Blaine – Absent
Ms. Drake- Absent
Ms. Newbert-Abstain
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority are pleased to announce the release of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Strategic Funding Plan for the funding years 2023 through 2025. The Plan identifies the four initiatives that the agencies will invest RGGI auction proceeds outlines how these investments will achieve emissions reductions, clean energy goals, and environmental justice priorities in over the 3-year funding period.

The four initiatives in this iteration of the Strategic Funding Plan are:

- Accelerate Healthy Homes and Building Decarbonization
- Catalyze Clean, Equitable Transportation
- Strengthen New Jersey’s Forests
- Promote Blue Carbon in Coastal Habitats

Ms. Argenti would like for the Township to apply for this grant. The money would be used for programs that show that the Township is doing well to limit greenhouse gases. She said that Stafford Township received 5 million dollars. She would like to see some action taken to benefit the forests to strengthen them against forest fires.

Ms. Fox explained that Manchester residents live in a fire adaptive area. Ms. Argenti said that she feels that even with that in mind, that cleaning them and managing them better would help. She would like more trees added. She is not sure what the date is to apply but she knows that Lakewood also received money.

Discussion of attendance at ANJEC webinar on Tuesday July 18, 2023

Ms. Newbert explained that they talked about tapping into local resources. Mara Tippet, the Director of the Raritan Headquarters was the speaker. They spoke about water quality testing and well-testing programs as well as Green Acres programs. ANJEC can help local Environmental Commissions to strengthen their rules on environmental things and you can email ANJEC to help with drafting ordinances. They provide landscape makeover programs for residents in the fall and teach how to help with stormwater runoff. Diane Amico, who is the Watershed Ambassador in Vineland, explained how to help prevent water laying on the property and they effects of adding impervious surfaces. Ms. Newbert would like to know what aquifer Manchester pulls their water from, a list of all the functional wells, how much water is left and if they generate an annual report.

Discussion of Planning Board Application 2023-05-Parkwood Square LP

Ms. Argenti wants to know where the water is coming from and she will circulate questions for Al Yodakis. The Commission members will read the application documents and table their discussion for the August meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of feasible recommendations we can make to the master plan.

The Commission would like to come up with a non-native plant list to not be able to plant in Town. It can be added as an addendum to existing invasive plant ordinance. The Commission will discuss this at the next meeting.

Discussion of inviting the Barnegat Bay Partnership to the July meeting to discuss the work they are doing on the watershed plan as it impacts Manchester Township. After contacting the Barnegat Bay Partnership, they would prefer to attend the August meeting.

The Commission said that they will have a 15-20-minute presentation in August.

MEMBER REPORT:

Ms. Newbert- Had a procedural question about the running project list.

Ms. Argenti- None.

Ms. Foor- Stated that he was at the Council meeting and asked what was being done with Pine Lake Park and what it would cost to remediate the lake. Ms. Argenti said she thinks that public sewers would be a good answer to that and thinks it could be funded by Ciba Geigy funds. Health studies were done and are accounted for by zip code. Toms River and Manchester have similar complaints on smells and water quality. Ocean County is second highest cancer rate in the state of NJ. Mr. Foor continued that Ms. Glen asked what the plan is and the Mayor said if the Town could fund the plan to remediate Pine Lake they would loof for funding and try and the lake back to swimmable lake.

Ms. Fox-None.

PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

The Public portion was concluded.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Argenti the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Kisty". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Amanda Kisty
Commission Secretary