

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 26, 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: 6:01 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

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| Gabrielle Fox | Present |
| Karen Argenti | Present |
| Dina Newbert | Present |
| Genevieve Stavallo | Present |
| William Foor | Present |
| Christopher Blaine | Absent |
| Sandra Drake | Absent |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve July 25, 2023 Minutes

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the July 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Argenti.

Roll call vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Speaker from the Barnegat Bay Partnership to discuss the work they are doing on the watershed plan as it impacts Manchester Township

Ms. Fox introduced Karen Walzer, the Outreach Coordinator from the Barnegat Bay Watershed.

Ms. Walzer explained that her presentation was about the Toms River Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan. She went through her Power Point presentation which started with the implantation of Budget and Funding Sources, where she explained the different grants and funds that were available and told the Commissioners where they could find information and sites to submit applications for the same. She then explained about the Actionable Project at hand regarding the Pine Lake Park Infiltration Basins. It is the belief of the Barnegat Bay Watershed that Pine Lake Park’s issues could be helped by installing public sewer systems. There were 22 projects identified in the previous studies done and five were completed. She explained that much of Pine Lake Parks issues are a result of dense neighborhood on septic systems and no stormwater control infrastructure resulting in Pine Lake being closed to swimming with pathogen and algal issues. She also went through the five proposed projects in Manchester. There was one in Summit Park, one at the Police Station and Division of Social Services, one at Manchester Township High School, one at the Ocean County Library and one at the Manchester Middle School and Ridgeway Elementary School. Ms. Walzer explained that they observed degraded Riparian Buffer Habitats and missing and degraded Riparian Buffers. The proposed projects would repair and restore these buffers. They also observed Erosion and Sedimentation related to Off Road vehicle use along with outdated and malfunctioning stormwater basins. Finally she provided the Commissioners with goals and objectives of the Toms River Plan.

Mr. Glen of Wycliff Dr. explained that although she stated that the septic tanks are a problem in Pine Lake Park, the builders are moving along at an unprecedented speed with new builds. They are now building on 50 ft. lots, which has never been done and he wanted to know if there was anything that the Barnegat Bay Partnership could do to help stop it. Ms. Walzer explained that there was not anything that they could do because it is up to the municipalities and all they could do is inform the public of their research and the concerns arising from the same. Mr. Glenn asked again if there was anything that they could do on the resident's behalf and Ms. Walzer responded that if all the partnership members agree, they can write a letter on the behalf of the residents.

Ms. Fox expressed that she thinks that the lake in Pine Lake Park should be tested to make sure they know where the problem is stemming from. It could be the septic or it could be a result of contamination from the base. It would be hard to know for sure without testing.

Ms. Argenti said that you would need to know before investing money to solve the problem.

Ms. Walzer suggested that Manchester could require the Pinelands requirements in different areas throughout the town.

Ms. Fox wanted to know if Manchester is using more than we are able to recharge, causing a negative backflow into the drinking water.

Mr. Leigh V Simpson II from Save Barnegat Bay to come and speak about the organization of a November neighborhood clean-up

Mr. Simpson was not in attendance. There will be a clean up on November 18, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the area between the Little League Fields and the Lake. The residents and volunteers will be able to park in the Little League parking lot to meet.

OLD BUSINESS

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

The Commission would like to table this discussion until next meeting.

Discussion of Planning Board/Zoning Board Application 2023-05-Parkwood Square LP.

Mr. Foor asked Ms. Kisty to explain the project. Ms. Kisty explained that the applicant is proposing a large Townhome development with a commercial component. The issue at hand is how to properly and most efficiently arrange the residential and commercial components of the property so that it is beneficial to the Township, the neighboring residents and the Applicant. The Commissioners will review the documents and discuss the application at the next meeting in October.

MEMBER REPORT:

Ms. Newbert- Explained that Ocean County is looking for volunteers. She asked about vacant storefront ordinance and the status of the same and she also asked about the Cherry street project. Ms. Kisty explained that the vacant storefront ordinance is on hold, but has been presented to the Administration. She also explained that the project that will go before the Planning Board regarding the Cherry Street and Lacey Road property is strictly for the three single family residential lot component of the project. The rest of the land is set to be purchased by the County for open space.

Mr. Foor- Explained that he will not be in attendance at the October Environmental Commission meeting because he will be in Antarctica. The Commissioners wished him well.

PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

The Public portion was concluded.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Newbert the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Kisty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Amanda Kisty
Commission Secretary