

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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 Stavalo	Absent
William Foor	Present
Christopher Blaine	Absent
Sandra Drake	Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve March 26, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Argenti made a motion to approve the March 26, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Foor.

Roll call vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Earth Day Poster Contest Winners Announced

Mr. Foor and Ms. Fox announced the winners of the Earth Day Poster Contest as follows: Sienna Otera, of MTES, Melanie Mauer of Whiting Elementary, Marisol Segundo Rojas of Regional Day School, Katie Segundo of Manchester Middle School, and Taisha Valentine of Ridgeway Elementary School. Each student came forward and accepted their awards and took pictures with their artwork. They were each given a prize as well.

Dark Sky presentation by Jim Webster

Mr. Jim Webster came before the commission and made a presentation regarding Dark Sky. He introduced himself as an Amateur Astronomer and Astro Photographer, as well as a Dark Sky advocate. He stated that only 2 in 10 people can see the Milky Way. Glare, light trespassing, and upward reflected light are all factors contributing to light pollution. He discussed the ways to implement Dark Sky compliance regulations for the Township for new development applications. He said that he will provide a sample ordinance for the Commissioners to provide to the Township Administration. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Webster for his presentation.

Discussion of Township Ordinance 24-16-Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan Adoption

Ms. Argenti spoke about the new ordinance and pointed out the changes. Ms. Fox said that she thinks that Manchester should just adopt the Pinelands regulations for all of Manchester, not just the Pinelands regions. Ms. Newbert said that the Commissioners should approach the Council with kindness and ask them to make changes.

Discussion of the April 21st Clean-up

Ms. Fox stated that the clean-up was a success and that it was the Commissions best turn out yet with 18-20 people participating. The Commissioners would like to talk to the Boy Scouts about a fishing line boxes because they picked up a lot of lines from the beach at the lake. They would also like to talk with DPW about having an easily accessible storage for bags, pickers and gloves for more availability for more clean-ups.

The Commissioners want to add pictures from the clean-up and the art work to the website.

Mr. Foor said that he found evidence of beavers in Pine Lake, but the lake wasn't too bad.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

MEMBER REPORT:

Ms. Argenti has a letter that people can sign their name on to have the Governor reconsider the Ciba Geigy Settlement Agreement. She said that she will have Save Barnegat Bay give the Commission permission to post it on Facebook. She also went to the Ocean County Environmental Commission meeting on the 18th.

Ms. Fox said she attended a warehouse sprawl meeting and gave details.

Ms. Argenti would like to fix the lights at the warehouse on Rt. 530.

Mr. Foor would like to have Mark Rohmeyer come speak to the Commission about issues that concern them like Dark Sky compliance and Stormwater Management.

PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Newbert the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Kisty
Commission Secretary