

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
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: 5:11 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

Jim Sloan	Present
Doreen Sharry	Present
Sandra Drake	Present
Kathy Stricchiola	Present
Jim Gravatt	Present
Christopher Blaine	Absent
Sandra Drake	Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Tabled until next meeting after consulting the Township attorney.

NEW BUSINESS:

Welcome to New Members

Mr. Sloan asked the members to take a minute to introduce themselves and tell the Commission a little bit about themselves.

Ms. Sandra Drake introduced herself and said that she has been in town for a long time and is heavily involved in many aspects of the community.

Ms. Doreen Sharry explained that she has lived in Manchester for 22 years and this is the town where her children grew up. She likes the direction that the town is going in.

Ms. Kathy Stricchiola introduced herself and said that she has been in town for five years and she is a member and chairperson of the Manchester Township Republican Club.

Mr. Jim Gravatt explained that he is getting involved because he has lived in Whiting his whole life.

Mr. Jim Sloan said that he has also lived in Whiting his whole life and is now the Supervisor of Upland Game Biology with the Department of Environmental Protection.

Discussion of Annual Reports and Goals and Objectives for 2025

Ms. Kisty went over what the Annual Reports and Goals and Objectives for 2024 and explained that the Commissioners would need to come up with the Goals and Objectives for 2025.

Mr. Sloan asked where the Open Space moneys come from.

Mayor Hankins was at the meeting and explained how Open Space Works.

Mr. Sloan said that he would like to the Township to start thinking about the Firewise program.

Ms. Drake said that she believes that there is a Committee to discuss that.

The Commissioners would like to see the following items on the February Agenda:

Expansion of Firewise

Earth Day Clean Up

Earth Day Poster Contest

Goals and Objectives for 2025

Mayor Hankins explained the status of the Firewise program.

Mr. Sloan said that he is concerned about the fact that the forest is not thinned out to work with crown fire.

Ms. Drake said that there will be a controlled burn in the Spring.

Mr. Gravatt said that there is no money and the water table is too low.

Ms. Drake asked if there were any other programs for kids to get involved with.

Mr. Nasta said that he thinks that there are fire programs that kids can get involved with in Jackson.

Mr. Sloan asked if there were Forest Stewardship Programs in town and Ms. Kisty said that she would try to look into that for him.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

MEMBER REPORT:

None.

PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Drake and seconded by Mr. Gravatt the meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Kisty
Commission Secretary