

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 22, 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: 6:00 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

Jim Sloan	Absent
Sandra Drake	Present
Kathy Stricchiola	Present
Jim Gravatt	Present
Anthony Nasta	Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve March 25, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Stricchiola made a motion to approve the March 25, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Drake.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Sloan-Absent
Ms. Drake- Yes
Mr. Gravatt -Abstain
Ms. Stricchiola- Yes
Mr. Nasta -Absent
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commissioners spoke briefly about the Earth Day Art Contest. They explained that there were not many participants. Only two schools submitted entries which were MTES and Whiting Elementary. Twelve classes in total participated and they were mostly from Whiting. Ms. Drake and Mr. Nasta met and chose the winners. The Commissioners agreed with their decisions.

Ms. Drake turned the meeting over to Ms. Stricchiola and her invited guests for Save the East Coast.

Presentation by "Save the East Coast"- Impact of the Offshore Wind on the Ecosystem on the East Coast, Kathleen DiFabio, Dennis DeForest, and Mark Suer

Ms. Stricchiola introduced Kathleen DiFabio of Save the East Coast.

Ms. DiFabio thanked the Commission for having them. She asked everyone to save their questions until the end of the presentation. Ms. DiFabio explained that when the organization was founded in February of 2023, there were 700 members. There are now over 8,000 members to date. Their goal is to stop offshore wind turbines. They are a nonprofit 501(c)4, so they can endorse political candidates. Wind turbines are not green, they are not "clean" and cannot run on wind alone. It is too inconsistent, and they require all types of fossil fuels to run them. The cooling stations for the turbines are dumping chemically treated water back into the Ocean. Bald Eagles will be injured and there is much discussion going on about whether the turbines are also killing whales. There is also a huge concern about the skyrocketing utility rates.

Ms. DiFabio turned the presentation over to Mark Suer.

Mr. Suer said that he is just a regular person from Belmar, NJ. A dead whale washed up on the beach and that sparked his concern. The turbines have all types of chemicals. Save the East Coast got legislators to stop the construction of the turbines. The top of the turbines are motors that run on fossil fuel. They cause the loss of wildlife in the Ocean. Environmental impact studies are huge and deal with all sorts of environmental concerns. The sonar boats that are used to check the depth of the ocean to be able to pile drive the turbines cause disruption in sea life. They are killing horseshoe crabs, birds and whales.

Mr. Suer introduced Mr. Dennis DeForest.

Mr. DeForest explained that the turbines interfere with radar. They have a severe hurricane threat because they are right in the paths of hurricanes. The cables that come with them create EMF. EMF has been known to cause leukemia in children. The flashing red lights cause issues for appliances and people with epilepsy. The visibility is disturbing, and the spinning of the blades reflects the radar. The turbines also disrupt commercial fisherman and tourism. In addition, all the companies constructing the turbines are foreign based companies, with foreign laborers.

Mr. DeForest opened it to the public for questions.

Marie of 1147B Thornbury came before the Commission. She stated that she is from Spain and there was sky high electricity for years so that people would not mind the wind turbines.

Gail Apgar of 53 Columbus Blvd came before the Commission. She said that the eagles and other birds that look for prey fly into them because they are looking down. The ocean animals are affected by the concrete they pour over the sand. Whales and dolphins die from the use of sonar, which makes them lose their way. Mr. DeForest confirmed that to be true and that it makes them deaf.

Ms. Apgar said that fishing in Point Pleasant would be ruined and Ms. DeForest confirmed that as well.

Ms. Apgar asked if 2% electricity is all it produced. Mr. Suer said that it is more like 35%.

Pauline Fazio of Leisure Village West came before the Commission. She stated that the turbines are hurting the whole entire ecosystem of our planet. Taxpayer money is going to those that money launder, not just for the turbines. She said that the people need to stand up and contact their legislators. She said that there will be a rally on Friday in Trenton regarding energy. She feels they need to do this together to make a difference.

Kathleen Stricchiola asked what the argument for the people who want these turbines. Mr. DeForest said that it is mostly union driven for jobs, but all European labor is being used. Mr. Suer said that the turbines are built from Chinese steel, the ships are from the Netherlands, and the turbines are built elsewhere.

There was an open conversation between the audience and the presenters.

Councilwoman Zolezi asked if the construction has been stalled and Mr. Suer said that it had been.

Councilwoman Zolezi asked if they had worked with DEP at all to bring out your concerns. Mr. Suer said no. They mostly work with legislators. He considers DEP a challenge for the most part. Councilwoman Zolezi encouraged them to reach out to DEP and give them their opinions.

Ms. Stricchiola said that it all comes in under UN Agenda 2030 and they need to spread the word.

Ms. Drake ended the presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

None

MEMBER REPORT:

Ms. Drake said that she and Mr. Nasta met about the posters and made the final decisions.

Ms. Drake wished everyone a Happy Earth Day. She said that they will discuss the walking path at a later meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Pauline Fazio asked about the Earth Day contest. She mentioned that the schools are teaching DEI and not teaching about saving the Earth.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Gravatt and seconded by Ms. Stricchiola, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Kisty

Commission Secretary