

# **MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Manchester Township Municipal Building  
1 Colonial Drive, Manchester Township, NJ

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Drake 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: 6:03 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

### **OATHS OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED:**

Anthony Nasta-Regular Member

Robert Morris- Alternate #1

### **ROLL CALL:**

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Dominick Tedeschi | Absent  |
| Sandra Drake      | Present |
| John Franolich    | Present |
| Jim Gravatt       | Present |
| Anthony Nasta     | Present |
| Robert Morris     | Present |

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

#### **Motion to approve the March 24, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Nasta made a motion to approve the March 24, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Franolich.

#### **Roll call vote:**

Mr. Tedeschi-Absent

Ms. Drake- Yes

John Franolich-Yes

Mr. Gravatt -Yes

Mr. Nasta -Yes

Motion carried.

#### **Motion to approve the April 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Franolich made a motion to approve the April 28, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Nasta.

#### **Roll call vote:**

Mr. Tedeschi-Absent

Ms. Drake- Yes

John Franolich-Yes

Mr. Gravatt -Yes

Mr. Nasta -Yes

Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Earth Day Art Contest Winner Presentations**

Commissioner Drake announced that the Commission had their Annual Earth Day Art Contest and were going to be presenting the winners tonight. She thanked Mayor Hankins for being there and for his generous donation of T-shirts to the winners. She also thanked the rest of the Commission for putting the contest together.

Ms. Drake and Mayor Hankins announced the winners and presented awards as follows:

Kindergarten: Isla Mae Nicholls

First Grade: Jack Watters and John Saunders Jr.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Savannah Stone

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Brian Baranyay

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Geneva Lynch and Kelsea Seaman

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kathryn Weaver, Alaina Martucci and Avalynn Colon.

Avalynn Colon was the winner overall, and her artwork was put on the T-shirt provided to the winners by the Environmental Commission and the Mayor.

Ms. Drake had to leave the meeting at 6:23 p.m. She thanked the Commissioners and the students that came and she welcomed Mr. Morris to the Commission.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion on Water Quality in Manchester**

The Commissioners talked about sending the water quality memo to the Council and Al Yodakis.

#### **Resolution Compliance-PB Application 2024-15- Response to Environmental Commission Memo**

Ms. Kisty explained that the letter they were reviewing was from the applicant applying for a major subdivision located at Block 21 lots 1 & 2. The Commission had written a memo requesting more information and this letter and comment was provided in response to that request. In order to achieve Resolution compliance, the Commissioners needed to state whether their request was satisfied or if more information needed to be provided. The Commissioners were satisfied with the response.

#### **Reschedule Clean-Up Date**

Mr. Morris suggested getting the school students involved for the clean-up. He suggested doing the clean-up around the end of the summer near the beginning of the school year to entice the students to clean-up the schools before the new school year starts. He suggested August 22<sup>nd</sup> or August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Morris stated that he was going to prepare a memo to the Council to suggest a program between the Township and the School district to get more student involvement.

**MEMBER REPORT:**

Mr. Nasta stated that he is noticing a lot of kid's toys and garbage everywhere. He also wanted to know that was going on with the trees on Commonwealth and Ms. Kisty explained that they were removed without a permit and the owner is responsible for replacing them. He also wanted to know that the status of cleaning up Pine Lake was and Ms. Kisty suggested he write a memo to Council about it.

Mr. Gravatt asked is there were any control burns and Mr. Nasta stated that it is hard to get done on private property.

Mr. Morris spoke about the environmental-related clubs at the schools including Habitat for Humanity, the Impact Club and the Junior Impact Club. He also discussed the NJ Clean Communities Grant and wants to know if there is way to incorporate that into the school. He would like to start a clean communities club with possibly 3-4 field trips or even on a smaller scale with just the organization of community clean-ups. He said that the money has to be made available first though. He thinks they should try to establish a two-year pilot program. Ms. Kisty suggested having a whole plan put together to present to Council. He said he would work on it.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alan Jaeger came before the Commission and spoke about his concerns regarding the radio communications tower being constructed in Whiting.

**.ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Franolich and seconded by Mr. Morris, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Kisty  
Commission Secretary