

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, June 21, 2018

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Middaugh 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 and was posted in the lobby of the Municipal Building."

Time: 6:00 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

William Cook	Absent
William Foor	Present
David Kiernan	Present
Peggy Middaugh	Present
Rory Wells	Present, arrived after roll call

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve May 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes by Mr. Foor, seconded by Mr. Kiernan.

Roll call vote: Mr. Foor, Mr. Kiernan, Mr. Wells, Ms. Middaugh; yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Heritage Minerals Presentation

Mr. John Pagenkopf of H. Hovnanian Industries gave a short presentation on the remediation efforts at the Heritage Minerals Site. The plant area contains a petroleum leak 3-5 acres in size that they are in the process of cleaning up by pumping the water and oil out of the ground with wells. Also in the plant area, there is a small transformer spill caused by a vandal. They expect remediation to begin within 8-12 months. There is an area spanning 35-45 acres that is contaminated with radioactive mine tailings. The area contains a higher concentration of Thorium than acceptable to the State of New Jersey. The current conditions are acceptable in other states such as Delaware and Pennsylvania.

OLD BUSINESS:

OC Landfill Site Tour

Ms. Middaugh will reach out to the OC Landfill to request a tour for the Environmental Commission if the Mayor approves of such a visit. Mr. Wells doesn't believe the Sunshine Law would prevent the Commission from touring the facility together. He will put together a bullet point checklist for the Mayor.

TMR Enterprises

This project is moving ahead; the Planning Board approved the proposed development last year. It will now be reviewed by the Pinelands Commission.

Plastics Ban

Mr Wells: I called Point Pleasant Beach Chamber of Commerce and waiting to hear back from them. I want to find out how the businesses feel about the plastics ban. LBI and Point Pleasant Beach are both plastic free with exceptions – i.e. drycleaners, bait, meat. The Township of Point Pleasant Beach gave away 1,000 free tote bags. I spoke to a manager at ShopRite; awaiting additional information from headquarters. 2 cents per plastic bag / 5 cents per paper bag. ShopRite and other businesses are thinking of providing tote bags for free to regular customers. Plastics bans will likely expand further in New Jersey. Incentive based program, voluntary program or ban? More information to come.

Mr. Foor: Driving over today I heard on 101.5 radio station that there is some legislation at the State level to impose a fee of 5 cents fee per bag whether paper or plastic. If it is imposed, it will be a revenue source for the State - \$21 million. First time I have heard of it.

Mr. Wells: Businesses will treat it as tax.

Mr. Foor: The radio hosts were saying it wouldn't help the environment, people would just pay the 5 cents.

Ms. Middaugh: There are two State bills – one is for a complete ban and one is incentive based. Maine and New York have banned a lot of things, Styrofoam, etc.

We have a local deli in Manchester - Hollywood Deli. They use all paper products – paper bags, paper straws, paper cups. It's all intentional. If anyone is interested in this I encourage you to support them.

If we do decide to go ahead and do a project relating to this, we need to plan and do some research. What do we want to do? Who do we need to talk to? What kind of education do we need to do? What are the steps? Also, if the State passes a plastics ban tomorrow, there is no point in us looking into it.

Rt. 37 Retail Development Project

This application has not come before the Planning Board yet. The NJDEP is accepting comments for 30 days starting yesterday (June 20, 2018). The Environmental Commission won't comment on this application until it comes before the Planning Board.

Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)

Ms. Middaugh: I contacted Sustainable Jersey, Manchester is Bronze Level certified. They don't have the money to fund an NRI right now but will send us an invitation in November to apply for funding of an NRI. We should pass this information on to the Mayor/ Business Administrator. The NRI is an assessment of all of the natural resources in town, it should be updated every 10 years. ANJEC funded Manchester's last NRI in 2005.

MEMBER REPORTS:

Green Team Projects

Ms. Middaugh contact Joe Veni from Manchester's Green Team. He is very interested in doing green projects and has done many in the past. There is a wind ordinance in effect, the town is purchasing alternative fuel vehicles, there is anti-idling resolution, a tree protection ordinance, rain guard program, prescription drug disposal program, etc. They have done a lot but they don't have a lot of people or resources currently. We should look into the benefits of being a Bronze level town, maybe we can move up to Silver. Joe Veni is willing to meet to discuss projects.

Rutgers Environmental Stewards Program

Ms. Middaugh just graduated from the program and needs to complete 60 hours of volunteer work.

Tree Ordinance

It shall be unlawful for any person to remove or destroy or cause to be removed or destroyed any area of trees in excess of 225 square feet from any lands within the Township without having first obtained a tree removal permit from the Township as provided in this chapter (Ord. No. 07-004, Ch. 403-2)

ANJEC Electric Vehicle Charging Webinar

Ms. Middaugh attended the webinar and thinks Manchester should be at the forefron of the electric vehicle movement. If Manchester has an Electric Charging Station it will bring business to the town. A number of towns already have them. By 2020 every major car maker will have electric cars on the road. Mr. Foor will bring it up at the next Planning Board Meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Ms. Bette Chosak, resident, encourages everyone to read *Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation*. The Lacey Library is having a book discussion about it on Monday, July 16, 2018. The book is about the true story of the industrial pollution in Toms River, NJ from 1952 through the 1980s and it's effect on the environment.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Foor, meeting was adjourned.
All in favor, motion carried.
Time: 7:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary