

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, February 14, 2019
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:

Peggy Middaugh	Present
Rory Wells	Present
William Foor	Present
William Cook	Absent
David Kiernan	Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 10, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve January 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes by Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Middaugh.
Roll call vote: Mr. Wells, Ms. Middaugh; yes. Mr. Foor abstained. Motion carried.

January 10, 2019 Organization Meeting

Motion to approve January 10, 2019 Organization Meeting Minutes by Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Middaugh. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Wells, Ms. Middaugh; yes. Mr. Foor abstained. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

2019 Goals & Objectives

Ms. Middaugh: The Goals & Objectives List from 2018 is very broad. I think we should come up with some more specific goals for 2019. Maybe we should put this off until the next meeting when we can have input from Mr. Cook and Mr. Kiernan.

Mr. Wells: Does the Environmental Commission have a mission statement? If not, I think we should create one with specific goals and bullet points listed under each goal. Educational goals / awareness campaigns for us and general public.

Mr. Foor: I don't believe there is a mission statement. I will take a look at the ordinance.

Earth Day School Project – April 22, 2019

Each year the Environmental Commission arranges for the distribution of brown paper bags from local grocery stores to the Manchester elementary schools for the students to decorate in honor of Earth Day. The bags are then returned to the grocery stores for their use on Earth Day.

Secretary will send out letters to the three Elementary Schools in Manchester and Stop & Shop and Shoprite to find out if they would like to participate this year.

Application for Development Process

Ms. Middaugh: When a big project is going before the Planning Board, the Environmental Commission tends to get the information too late. They will make a decision before we have a chance to review it at our next meeting. Planning Board Secretary, Marianne Borthwick told me she will send us pieces of the application as they come in instead of waiting to send everything as a whole. This will give the Environmental Commission more time to review.

Mr. Foor: I'm seeing some improvement. We received the package for the Dollar General project before it went before the Planning Board.

Ms. Middaugh: We reviewed the project documents for the Dollar General project via email because it went before the Planning Board last week and we didn't know about the project until after our last meeting.

Comments regarding the application were passed on to Mr. Foor, who is also a member of the Planning Board, so he could bring them up at the meeting. More research is needed on communicating on projects via email in regard to the Sunshine Law.

The Commissioners discussed calling an emergency meeting in order to review an application before it goes before the Planning Board.

Mr. Foor: The Commission could recommend a deferral at the Planning Board meeting if they haven't had a chance to review. There would need to be a good reason to hold it up. Also, if we start reviewing project documents before they are deemed complete by the engineer, we could be reviewing for nothing.

Proposed Dollar General – Block 5, Lot 2059

Ms. Middaugh: It is a 2.7 acre vacant lot and 1/3 is proposed to be developed. They will take down trees and put up store exits on Ridgeway and Washington streets.

Mr. Foor: The Developer went above and beyond in their presentation. They will have as much of a tree barrier as possible. Fully compliant.

Ms. Middaugh: I was blown away with the presentation. They are taking down the fewest trees possible.

Single Family Dwelling App. – Block 73, Lot 7

Ms. Middaugh: Single family dwelling on Beckerville Rd. and Route 70. Pinelands issued a certificate giving them the go ahead.

Mr. Foor: No variances are needed so we may not see any more about it except maybe about a septic system.

OLD BUSINESS:

Plastics Ban Resolution Request

Ms. Middaugh: The Environmental Commission requested that the Council pass a resolution in support of the State Plastics Ban Bill No. S2776.

Mr. Wells: When we're talking about compliance, I'm more for changing behaviors than passing legislation. I would prefer if we can get the people to voluntarily comply. I support the bill for the most part except the part about banning the selling of straws. I don't necessarily agree with that.

Ms. Middaugh: Education is important. I've been working on plastics since 1984 and it has gotten much worse. I am enormously frustrated. Secretary Frazee and I will attend a workshop on Plastics at the ACUA Recycling Center in Egg Harbor Township on February 27, 2019.

Save Barnegat Bay (SBB) Green Infrastructure Presentation

SBB will give a presentation on stormwater management at the next Environmental Commission meeting on March 14, 2019 at 6:00pm.

Rain Barrel Workshop – April 20, 2019

The Township will host a rain barrel workshop in the Civic Center on April 20, 2019 from 9:30-11:00am. Please note the date change from the last Environmental Commission meeting. SBB will give a presentation on the benefits of rain barrels. The first 12 registered residents will construct rain barrels after the presentation.

MEMBER REPORTS:

Plastics Awareness Campaign

By the next meeting, Mr. Wells will have the plastics awareness outreach project drafted which will consist of making suggestions and requesting action from residents in the community, businesses and churches, and local government.

Pinelands Short Course – March 9, 2019

Will be held at Stockton University in Galloway

PUBLIC FORM:

Ms. Karen Argenti, 61 Clear Lake Rd., SBB Board of Directors: I just want you to know at our last board meeting, one of the people on the board is a fisherman and he has been seeing an extraordinarily high amount of garbage in the bay, even more than after Hurricane Sandy. A lot of it is plastic and some wood too. We might have some interns do some studies on it.

About the schools, it would be nice to know what they are doing on Earth Day and put it on calendar to share it with people.

About the Application for Development process, you could get 10 potential issues/rules together, like a theorem. Not enough stormwater capture, etc. There couldn't be that many different types of issues because it's all environment. Air, water, land, birds etc. If you communicate by email about projects, the general public cannot hear your comments or provide input.

The main reason I came tonight is to talk about an issue that concerns me. I understand the Council recommended the Planning Board study the idea of a town center on Rt. 37 where the asphalt plant was. I drove past it today, and it isn't any place for a town center. Maybe I don't understand what they mean. If I were to decide where the town center is, I would say it is here. There's town hall, social services, a library, police department. I don't know why we'd be looking at that other piece of land for the town center. We have a report on the land. Something is wrong with that land, nothing is growing on it. It was polluted and needed to be remediated. It was on the list of superfund sites. I don't understand the whole idea.

Ms. Middaugh: I think they are doing an assessment on it right now and it's going to take about three months.

Discussion on town center location. Not currently known, further research needed

Ms. Argenti will email report on old asphalt plant lot to the Commission.

Frank Stavallo, 12 Charles Ave.: Since the last meeting, I have been way more plastic conscious. I find that some stores look at you weird when you say no to a plastic bag. Places like Wawa and the dollar store just put stuff right in the bag. Sometimes Shoprite double bags.

I read a comment on the town's Facebook page that collecting rain water is illegal.

Ms. Middaugh: These rain barrels are designed to keep mosquitos out. Having standing water is the illegal because it is a mosquito breeding ground.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Foor and seconded by Mr. Wells, meeting was adjourned. All in favor, motion carried.

Time: 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary