

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, March 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	Absent
William Cook	Present
David Kiernan	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 14, 2019 Regular Meeting

The meeting minutes from February 14, 2019 were unable to be approved due to lack of voting quorum. Carry to next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Save Barnegat Bay (SBB) Presentation – “Nature’s Stormwater Management: Green Infrastructure”

SBB Executive Director Britta Wenzel and Board Member Karen Argenti gave a presentation on the importance of green infrastructure. Green infrastructure is allowing rain water to be absorbed into the land instead of directed into and polluting our water bodies. Barnegat Bay is the largest body of water in the State of New Jersey. Out of the nine segments of the Barnegat Bay, from Bay Head to Little Egg Harbor, five segments no longer support general aquatic life due to pollution. Stormwater runoff, which is rain that flows over the land, through animal waste, fertilizers and other pollutants before making its way into the water bodies, is a major cause of this pollution. Green infrastructure can be incorporated by creating rain gardens with native plants, use of rain barrels and installation of permeable pavement. By next year, it is expected that the State of New Jersey will require that green infrastructure be incorporated into all development projects.

2019 Goals & Objectives

Mr. Cook: I think additional outreach should be added to our 2019 goals.

Mr. Wells: The commission has become a lot more active. I think adding two alternate members to the team should be a goal.

Ms. Middaugh: If anybody in the audience is from Manchester and interested in being an alternate on this Board, please let us know.

Mr. Cook: Another goal should be about obtaining plans from planning board more effectively.

Ms. Middaugh: Let's all take a look at this again this month and email some ideas to each other.

Mr. Cook made a motion to carry this item to the next agenda, seconded by Mr. Wells. **Roll call vote:**

Mr. Cook, Mr. Wells, Mr. Kiernan, Ms. Middaugh; yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Plastics Ban / Outreach Project

Ms. Middaugh: The commission sent a memo to council asking them to pass a resolution in support of the State Plastics Ban Bill. We have not received an official response, however, I spoke to the council and the mayor at the last council meeting and they seem to be in favor of the resolution. We don't know how long it will take the state to pass the legislation.

2065 Highway 37 – Block 44, Lot 15.01 Report

Ms. Middaugh: This is the former asphalt plant lot. The planning board is looking at it to see what it could be used for. The consultants are creating a new report on the plot of land and we will comment on it when that report comes back.

Mr. Cook: This lot has not been completely remediated. It has D.O.C's.

Earth Day Project

The Environmental Commission will deliver brown paper bags from Shoprite and Stop & Shop to all three Manchester elementary schools for the students to decorate in honor of Earth Day. Once students have finished decorating the bags, Commissioners will return the bags to the grocery stores for their use on Earth Day, April 22, 2019.

Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)

Ms. Middaugh: NRI's should be updated every ten years. Manchester's most recent NRI is from 2005. We sent a recommendation in to the mayor's office about updating our NRI. A project the town is currently working on may require an updated NRI.

Ms. Middaugh asked Secretary Frazee if she would inquire about the status.

MEMBER REPORTS:

Online Stormwater Management Training

Mr. Cook: I was required to participate in an interactive training session on stormwater management. All zoning and planning board members are required to take it. It addressed a lot of information.

Mr. Cook asked Secretary Frazee to request the link from zoning board secretary, Erin Mathioudakis, and send to the commissioners.

Plastics Awareness Campaign

Mr. Wells drafted a one year plastics awareness campaign entitled “Reducing Our Plastic is Fantastic 2020 Awareness Campaign”. The tentative kick-off date for the campaign is Earth Day, April 22, 2019. The campaign will have commission members and volunteers participating in township events and educating the public throughout the year, leading up to a celebration of Earth Day 2020, the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day.

The Commissioners will review the draft campaign and press release and vote on the items at the next meeting.

PUBLIC FORM:

Frank Stavalo, 12 Charles Avenue: I had to take the stormwater management training for the planning board as well. It was in line with what SBB’s presentation was about today. Do you recommend any landscapers that are particularly “green” and know a lot about native plants?

Ms. Wenzel: I don’t like to give out one specific name, but I can give you a few names.

Mr. Kiernan: Where do you buy native plants?

Ms. Argenti: You have to make your own list of specific plants to take to the store.

Ms. Wenzel: NJDEP has an official list of native plants. SBB is working on a bill called the “Jersey Native Program” where all native plants would get labelled as such. The bill has passed favorably through the Senate Environment Committee already. Our next goal will be to get these plants sales tax free.

Phyllis Dellasandro, resident: I am a master gardener and we have a lot of different programs and literature free to the public at the center on Whitesville Road in Toms River.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary