

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, April 11, 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: 6:10 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

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|----------------|---------|
| Peggy Middaugh | Present |
| Rory Wells | Present |
| William Foor | Present |
| William Cook | Present |
| David Kiernan | Present |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 14, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve February 14, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Foor.

Roll call vote: Mr. Foor, Mr. Wells, Ms. Middaugh; yes. Mr. Cook and Mr. Kiernan abstained due to being absent at this meeting. Motion carried.

March 14, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve March 14, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Wells.

Roll call vote: Mr. Cook, Mr. Kiernan, Mr. Wells, Ms. Middaugh; yes. Mr. Foor abstained due to being absent at this meeting. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Impact of Geese on Pine Lake Presentation

Jillian Peslak, a high school student from Manchester who attends MATES, gave a short presentation on the research she conducted on the impact of geese dropping on the health of Pine Lake in Manchester. The lake has not been open for swimming for many years due to unsafe pollution, particularly the high levels of E. Coli, a bacteria found in the gastrointestinal tract of people and animals. For years, the lake has exceeded the NJDEP limit, 104 colonies per 100 ml of water, deeming it unsafe for swimming. In Jillian’s research, she found that E. Coli colonies were only present in the lake in August. Jillian didn’t find any significant correlation between the geese population she observed and the presence of E. Coli colonies. Jillian plans to continue her research in the coming years to determine the main cause of pollution in Pine Lake.

Goals and Objective for 2019

The Commissioners discussed and agreed upon the following 2019 Goals and Objectives:

GOAL 1: Fully staff the Environmental Commission

- OBJECTIVE 1: 5 regular, 2 alternate positions filled

GOAL 2: Work with Manchester Green Team to help promote Sustainable Jersey projects

- OBJECTIVE 1: Conduct Stormwater Management outreach/education
- OBJECTIVE 2: Develop Electric Vehicle Charging Station report

GOAL 3: Promote Conservation of Natural Resources in Manchester

- OBJECTIVE 1: Advocate for Up to Date Natural Resource Inventory
- OBJECTIVE 2: Make recommendations on Master Plan/Open Space Plan
- OBJECTIVE 3: Provide Recommendation to Planning Board and Board of Adjustment on Environmental Impact of Site Plans prior to development

GOAL 4: Help Municipality Reduce the Use of Single Use Plastic Items

- OBJECTIVE 1: Support State bills to reduce plastics through Town Council Resolution(s)
- OBJECTIVE 2: Develop / Implement Plastics Awareness Campaign

GOAL 5: Work with Schools to Promote Environmental Awareness

- OBJECTIVE 1: Connect with public schools through Superintendent.

GOAL 6: Increase Public Participation in Environmental Commission

- OBJECTIVE 1: Raise awareness through announcements, articles and press releases local newspapers and website
- OBJECTIVE 2: Hold regular Educational Presentations on topics of public interest: Green Infrastructure, Pine Lake, Recycling, etc.

Ms. Middaugh asked the public to please let the commissioners know if they have any ideas and they will take them into consideration.

Irene Tisch, resident: It would be good if the schools had environmental clubs so students will be environmentally conscious from a young age.

Mr. Cook: Manchester Township Elementary has a garden.

Ms. Tisch: Whiting also has a garden that was active for a while.

Mr. Kiernan: My wife works there and there is a fair coming up. I will find out the information.

Ms. Tisch: Rain barrel workshops would be good for schools.

Mr. Cook: I will reach out to the school about rain barrel workshops.

Mr. Cook made a motion to adopt the Goals and Objectives discussed, seconded by Mr. Wells.

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

Plastics Awareness Campaign

The Commissioners discussed the Plastics Awareness Campaign entitled “Reducing Our Plastic is Fantastic 2020 Awareness Campaign” that Mr. Wells presented at the last meeting. 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 discussed putting an electric vehicle in the Manchester Memorial Day Parade and having a booth setup for Manchester Day. Mr. Wells will run the campaign.

Mr. Cook made a motion to approve the “Reducing Our Plastic is Fantastic 2020 Awareness Campaign”, seconded by Ms. Middaugh.

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

GIS Map Software

The interactive map software purchased by the township will be available to the public and posted on our website in the future.

OLD BUSINESS:

Plastics Ban

In February, the Environmental Commission requested that the Township Council adopt a resolution in support of the state plastics ban, Senate Bill No. 2776. At the April 8, 2019 Council meeting, such a resolution was passed: Resolution #19-192.

Earth Day Project

Ms. Middaugh will pick up the decorated bags from Whiting Elementary School and deliver to Stop & Shop. Mr. Cook will pick up the decorated bags from Ridgeway Elementary and Manchester Elementary and deliver to ShopRite.

Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)

Mr. Foor: The Township Engineer is in favor of an update to Manchester Township’s NRI.
Karen Argenti, resident: FEMA may have grant funding available for NRI

MEMBER REPORT:

Mr. Foor mentioned when he was in Florida, he saw stainless steel reusable straws.

Mr. Wells mentioned the idea of inviting Manchester students and teachers from science/environmental clubs to one of the Environmental Commission meetings at the beginning of the school year.
Karen Argenti, resident: Reach out to School Superintendent, he could probably help coordinate this.

PUBLIC FORM:

Karen Argent, resident: The old asphalt plant is going to be investigated for redevelopment. How far along are they in cleaning it up? Why is the town considering developing a deteriorated piece of land that is basically a brownfield? A good use for brownfields would be solar farms. And windmills on the Heritage Minerals site.

Ms. Middaugh: We discussed the possibilities of a solar farm with John Pagenkopf of H. Hovnanian.

Mr. Foor: The redevelopment plan was supposed to go before the Planning Board on Monday but the applicant hadn't adequately addressed remediation so it was taken off the agenda. I encourage you to come to the Planning Board meeting where this will be discussed.

Ms. Argenti: People like the idea of brightfields for brownfields. We lost the power plant, we are in need of clean electricity.

Mary Demarest, resident of Whiting, offered to use her electric vehicle in the Manchester Memorial Day Parade.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary