

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, May 9, 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	Present
David Kiernan	Present
Mary Demarest-Paraan	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 11, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve April 11, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Foor.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Manchester Water Storage Tank CAFRA App.

Mr. Cook: This is much needed for the east section of town. There is not enough storage in the water tank on Route 37 so there are restrictions in the summer and residents can't water their lawns as much as they'd like.

Ms. Middaugh: Rain barrels could help with that.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: I hooked my rain barrel up last week.

The location of the proposed storage tank is adjacent to the landfill, on the east side of Route 70.

Ms. Middaugh: Is the area wooded?

Mr. Cook: The tank isn't going to take up a lot of space. They will only need to clear approximately 150 ft. x 150 ft.

Mr. Foor: It is on a paper street and not heavily wooded.

Ms. Stavallo: Is a parking lot really necessary? And if so, maybe we could request they use recycled asphalt, instead of a pavement.

Mr. Cook: Good point. I don't see why we couldn't make that comment to the Planning Board.

Mr. Foor: This may not go before the Planning Board. It is township owned property.

Ms. Middaugh: Who is reviewing the application?

Mr. Cook: I would think the Department of Utilities is reviewing.

Mr. Foor: If the application came from the Clerk's Office, I would think comments would need to go to them.

Secretary to find out where comments should be directed and send interoffice memo

Whiting Elementary School Wellness Fair – June 6th 5pm-8pm

Mr. Kiernan: Whiting Elementary School is a certified Bronze level school through Sustainable Jersey. To become certified silver, they are doing a wellness fair which includes a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new outdoor classroom and opening of the school garden. The children will also learn about rain barrels, and tours will be given of the new STEAM lab. There will be a basketball game between parents, teachers and Manchester police officers. The school will allow the Environmental Commission a table set up, if we would like.

Ms. Middaugh: I will plan to be there.

Mr. Wells: I may be able to come for an hour.

Ms. Middaugh reached out to Jillian Peslak, MATES student who conducted research on the impact of geese on Pine Lake, to see if she could come to the event and share her findings. She is awaiting a response.

Discussion on getting a banner for the table. Ms. Demarest-Paraan suggested using VistaPrint.com. Ms. Middaugh will get pricing. Secretary will send interoffice memo to the Mayor requesting funds to purchase the banner.

OLD BUSINESS:

Earth Day Project

Ms. Middaugh went to Stop & Shop on Earth Day to get pictures of the decorated bags being distributed and was disappointed that none of the cashiers knew anything about it and were unaware that they were supposed to be giving them out. A few days later, the bags were still there. Ms. Middaugh suggested we work on this issue next year.

Plastics Awareness Campaign

A press release regarding the start of the campaign was sent to media outlets on April 18, 2019. It was published in the Manchester Times on May 4, 2019.

Mr. Wells: The first event on the agenda is the Memorial Day Parade. I spoke to the Department of Recreation and have not received confirmation yet. They didn't seem very excited about us putting an electric vehicle in the parade. I left a message for the Director, Tracey Lynch, but have not hear back from her yet.

The next event coming up is Manchester Day on June 29, 2019 where I'd like to have a table setup.

Ms. Stavallo volunteered to man the table for an hour or two. Ms. Middaugh may join her as well.

Mr. Wells: I will send out another press release soon, after I get approval from the commission and the mayor.

Mr. Wells: Another event on the agenda is holding a panel discussion at the high school. I will draft a list of people to come sit at the panel. It's necessary to start this process early.

Ms. Middaugh: This is very ambitious. How many people do you expect to get?

Mr. Wells: It depends on how appealing the event is. 75+ people. Even if only 15 people show up, it's a start.

Ms. Middaugh: At this stage, approximately 80 towns have bans on plastics. Maybe we could take this on and host an event. I encourage everyone to watch the movie "Plastic Ocean". There is a 20 minute "kid-friendly" version as well.

Ms. Middaugh thanked Mr. Wells for his leadership on this campaign.

NJDEP Water Quality Restoration Grant

Ms. Middaugh: Unfortunately, Manchester did not get the grant for the Pine Lake project put together by Karen Argenti, resident and Save Barnegat Bay Board of Trustee. However, now we have all of this information and data on Pine Lake which could be used for other grant opportunities.

MEMBER REPORT:

Mr. Foor: At the last Planning Board meeting, the Chairperson recognized us for the input we give on projects. Timing isn't usually great since the Planning Board meets the week before the Environmental Commission does. One of the Councilman brought up a future project – an age restricted property northwest of Renaissance. Apparently this project was proposed 15 years ago. It is very preliminary, but if we have input early on like this, it is a positive sign. I am more than happy to bring forward any comments and concerns to the Planning Board.

Mr. Cook: I sent around an article on microplastics to the commissioners. A recent study in the middle of nowhere in the mountains indicates that some microscopic plastics wind up as airborne pollution. There's a big difference in the plastics that can be found in the ocean and in landfills. Where is it going when it's broken down? It's very scary.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: Leonia Township is officially the first town to have an all-electric police car. I believe it was acquired through a grant from Sustainable Jersey.

Ms. Middaugh: For anyone interested in the gas pipeline projects going on in New Jersey, there will be a public forum on May 13, 2019 7pm-8:45pm at the Ocean County Library.

PUBLIC FORM:

Frank Stavalo, 12 Charles Ave.: I attended the rain barrel workshop and had a great time. I just need to connect the downspout on the rain barrel I took home. I was able to find some barrels to donate.

Karen Argenti, 61, Clear Lake Rd.: We didn't get this grant but I haven't given up. There are plenty of other grant opportunities. Barnegat Bay Partnership is interested in the Pine Lake issue. I could suggest a stakeholder meeting.

Mr. Wells thanked Ms. Argenti for all of her hard work.

Irene Tisch, resident: I have a few ideas about the events. For the advertising of the proposed panel discussion at the high school, maybe you could put something about Heritage Minerals letting people know Heritage Minerals is not the only environmental concern in Manchester. Sloan Boys Market sells milkweed. For the wellness fair, it would be a good idea to have an electric vehicle there. Maybe you should reach out to the public library and see if they could show "Plastic Ocean" throughout the local libraries, or just Manchester Library. Maybe you could arrange an event there.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: After the showing of the movie would be a good time to have a panel discussion.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan agreed to attend the wellness fair with her electric vehicle.

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: 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary