

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, June 13, 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
David Kiernan	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Present
William Foor	Absent
William Cook	Absent
Mary Demarest-Paraan	Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 9, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve May 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Kiernan.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Scheduling of Educational Presentation on Recycling

Ms. Middaugh: We've been talking about having a presentation about recycling at one of our meetings for a while now. Bayshore Recycling and the Ocean County Recycling Facility offered to come in to give presentations. Both presentations on the same day, back to back. The representative from Bayshore is very knowledgeable, he used to work for the NJDEP. The representative from Ocean County is very knowledgeable about recycling procedures.

Mr. Kiernan: The mayor sends out a magazine with recycling information every year. Maybe after the presentations we could make a list of suggestions with new information.

Secretary Frazee advised the Board that the deadline to submit articles for the Manchester Citizen is in the fall.

Mr. Wells: Maybe we could get the schools to give extra credit to students who attend.

Mr. Kiernan: Maybe teachers could have the kids make a list of questions. Flyers could be sent out in their backpacks.

Ms. Middaugh will reach out to both representatives and invite them to the September or October meeting. She will let the commissioners know via email.

OLD BUSINESS:

Manchester Water Storage Tank CAFRA

Ms. Middaugh: We talked about this project at the last meeting and the idea of requesting porous pavement or recycled asphalt for the small parking lot. Lauren is writing a letter to the Director of Public Works, Al Yodakis, who is overseeing the project and asked that we provide some reasons for this request.

Ms. Stavalo: The water would be absorbed directly into the ground and recharge the aquifer.

Ms. Middaugh gave Secretary Frazee the OK to send the letter to the Director of Public Works and the reason we are requesting porous pavement such as recycled asphalt, is because of its permeability.

Plastics Awareness Campaign

Ms. Middaugh: We spread the word about our Plastics Awareness Campaign at the Wellness Fair. We had “Reduce-Reuse-Recycle” and “Plastics Awareness” literature set up on our table.

Mr. Wells: The State is talking about it, a couple of things have been going on. Last month, a new diving record was set. The dive was filmed for the Discovery Channel and there was a plastic bag at the bottom of the ocean. Also Jason Momoa, the actor who played Aquaman from the DC comics, has taken on a plastics public awareness campaign. I am thinking of inviting him to the forum we are planning to hold in the spring or fall. I'd really like to have a celebrity there. I am just in the beginning planning stages now. Let me know if you have any suggestions on guests to invite. I will be reaching out to colleges in search of volunteers. The Jersey Shore SurfRider Foundation, a group dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the ocean and beaches, is leading the plastics discussion in our area, giving presentations.

Ms. Middaugh: Right now the legislature is stalled. It's not likely to pass this month. Lauren sent around a copy of a letter from NJ Food Council about the plastics ban. They are not in support of banning polystyrene. I still support the state bill. It also talked about how switching to paper isn't the solution because of its effect on climate change but we are not arguing paper versus plastic. These are two separate issues. Plastic is toxic and it gets into our food chain.

Whiting School Wellness Fair

Mr. Kiernan: There was a great turnout. We had our table set up with hand-outs. There was a lot of interest in the electric vehicle we had there. They had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new outdoor classroom which is a rectangular gazebo with desks. Council President Joan Brush was there and the principal did a nice presentation. There were a lot of kids, vendors, the Cub Scouts were there, and the first aid squads. It was a nice evening for families.

Ms. Middaugh thanked Mr. Kiernan for making it possible for the commission to have a table at the event.

Memorial Day Parade

Mr. Wells: Ms. Demarest-Paran's electric vehicle was in the parade. The goal was to get out there and be active in our community and get people to ask questions. The electric vehicle definitely got attention, as well as the electric bike that Ms. Demarest-Paran's husband brought.

Ms. Middaugh: It was a great event. She isn't here tonight, but big thanks to Ms. Demarest-Paran for letting us use her electric vehicle for the event.

Manchester Day

The Environmental Commission will have a table at Manchester Day on June 29, 2019. Ms. Stavalo offered to man the table for some of the day. The commissioners discussed creating a schedule for the event.

MEMBER REPORT:

Ms. Middaugh: I took a Green Infrastructure Champions class with Karen Argenti. The girl scouts are doing a rain garden project at the fire station.

Ms. Wells: My daughter received the Girl Scout Gold Award, the equivalent of the Boy Scout Eagle rank. At the ceremony, there were a few girl scouts that did environmental projects. There was one on micro-recycling which is a term I hadn't heard of before. Her mom is involved with the Green Team in her community. I invited her to come talk to us about micro-recycling.

PUBLIC FORM:

Frank Stavalo, 12 Charles Ave. has noticed a lot more plastic in the shipments he receives at work. Amazon is notorious for this. Only the more expensive car parts come packaged with paper. Maybe when the state goes forward with the plastics ban, an alternative material will be used.

Ford is coming out with a hybrid pursuit police car. There is also a hybrid F150 coming out. Great to see big manufacturers coming out with EV's.

Ms. Middaugh: I am hoping to see an electric vehicle charging station in Manchester in the near future. I heard Volkswagens will all be electric by 2020.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary