

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, August 8, 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
William Cook	Present
David Kiernan	Present
Rory Wells	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Present
Mary Demarest-Paraan	Present
William Foor	Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 11, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve July 11, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes by Mr. Cook, seconded by Ms. Middaugh.

Roll call vote: Mr. Cook, Mr. Kiernan, Ms. Middaugh, Ms. Demarest-Paraan; yes. Mr. Wells abstained.
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dollar General – Block 41.01, Lot 1 – Route 37

Ms. Middaugh: This is a brand new CAFRA application.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: Surrounding property is wetlands. They will disturb some of the wetlands and dedicate some parts as wetlands. There are threatened species on the property. Anti-idling signage is not mentioned in the plans.

Mr. Cook: This isn't going before the Zoning Board. They are proposing a quarterly maintenance procedure for the infiltration basins. Usually nobody monitors them. Maybe we can keep a log to ensure they are being maintained.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: Dollar Generals are more like a convenience store than a dollar store. It will generate more traffic. They are going to put a big rig lane behind the store.

Mr. Cook: Idling more than 3 minutes in a parking lot is against state law.

Mr. Wells: This is a town wide concern. Maybe we can make a recommendation to the Chief of Police to have a weekend operation to enforce no idling, or periodic enforcement checks.

Ms. Middaugh: Maybe we can encourage green infrastructure, ask them to plan more trees.

Ms. Middaugh asked Secretary Frazee to send an interoffice memo to the Planning Board with their comments.

Block 44, Lot 16 – 2101 Route 37

Ms. Middaugh: This was a legal notice of a request to the NJDEP to check for presence or absence of wetlands.

Grunin Retail Development

Ms. Middaugh: This a CAFRA application for a retail building and restaurant on Route 37.

Ms. Stavalo: It looks like they are incorporating the property with the old Getty Station.

Ms. Middaugh: There isn't a development plan yet.

Ms. Middaugh asked the public if they had any comments about this development.

Ryan Grech, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, advised the commission that this is a critical habitat site for three endangered species and wetlands are present on site. All along route 37 is so developed, so few remaining areas for habitat. It would be a shame to see one of the last ones go by way of commercial development.

Britta Wenzel, Save Barnegat Bay Executive Director, Save Barnegat Bay has been engaged with this property for 13 years of proposed developments. Ms. Wenzel asked the commission to please look it over carefully. There has been a lot of documentation about the sensitive environmental issues there, as well as the runoff potential damage to Barnegat Bay.

This agenda item will be carried to the next meeting.

Pleasant Plains Gun Club

Ms. Middaugh: They took down 13,000 sf of trees without permission in 2009.

Mr. Cook: It's part of the remediation to plant seedlings. We've seen cases where the seedlings were planted in the shade and they never grow.

Mr. Wells: There were height and spacing requirements in the notice. If they fail to comply, the Environmental Commission could send them a letter. It's been almost 30 days since the letter was sent. I recommend that we bring this back next month. We can get an update from the Pinelands Commission.

Britta Wenzel, Save Barnegat Bay Executive Director: Hunting is part of our history here, there are a lot of small gun clubs in the area. Perhaps they were not informed, they didn't know they were in the wrong. Save Barnegat Bay would be happy to help them with the planting and to educate them on available grants. Even though they were in the wrong here, we can help them get to a better place.

Ryan Grech, Pinelands Preservation Alliance: I like Britta's idea. The Pinelands Commission doesn't have enforcement authority. Enforcement is usually up to the township.

Ms. Middaugh stated she liked Ms. Wenzel's idea and asked if any of the commissioners would be willing to assist in this and contact the gun club. Ms. Stavalo offered to help.

Renaissance Stormwater Outfall Maintenance

Mr. Cook: There are 13 ponds on Renaissance which they use for their sprinkler systems. They are allowed to take some and outflow some water to and from the Toms River. There are sink holes forming after 20 years and the pipes have to be replaced. They're not changing anything.

Frank Stavalo, resident: Is there anything they can do to update the system?

Mr. Cook: They may be using different material piping. It is a good system. The pond water is recharged through the lawns.

Dollar Tree – Block 86, Lot 2.04

Ms. Middaugh: This was presented a month ago at the Planning Board. It's coming back for final approval the first Monday in September. The proposed development is on a treed lot on Lacey Road between the Rite Aid and First Aid Squad. It sits on a curve. There are so many empty storefronts in the area but they own the land and want to build so there isn't much we can do to stop it.

Mr. Cook: I was happy to see the application for the Route 571 dollar store had a phenomenal recharge system. I think a rain garden would be feasible for this project.

Ms. Middaugh: The development will be right on a curve in the road. It is a dangerous section – no sidewalks there. The sidewalks stop at the corner of Lake Road. A lot of elderly people in the area.

Ms. Middaugh asked Secretary Frazee to send an interoffice memo to the Planning Board with their comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scheduling of educational presentation on Recycling

Ms. Middaugh: Gary Sondermeyer of Bayshore Recycling, Ray Sloan, the Township recycling coordinator and Sandra Blaine-Snow of OC Dept. of Solid Waste Management will come and give presentations on recycling in the court room on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 6:00 pm. There will be light refreshments. OC Sustainability Hub is creating a flyer.

Once flyer is received, Mr. Kiernan will get copies to Whiting Elementary School; Mr. Cook will get copies to Manchester Township Elementary School.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan will post the flyer on the Next Door Neighbor website.

Mr. Wells will draft a press release for the event.

Plastics Awareness Campaign

Short Video Contest at Schools

Mr. Wells: I think we should have a short video contest for the Middle School and High Schools students entitled "What you wish everyone knew about the Plastics Problem". The award will be a cash prize. We can post on social media outlets.

Mr. Cook suggested the videos should be 1-3 minutes in length.

Mr. Wells: I will reach out to the principals and have rules written up for the next meeting.

Secretary Frazee to send interoffice memo to the Mayor and Council requesting funding for cash prizes.

Plastics Panel Discussion

Mr. Wells: I have set a tentative date of January 16, 2020 for the panel discussion. I need to speak to the principal about using the high school auditorium.

Ms. Middaugh: We need to figure out who we are going to invite.

Earth Day 2020 Celebration

Mr. Wells: I am thinking the Friday before Earth Day from 5pm-8pm in the town hall parking lot would be a good day to have this. The rain date can be Saturday.

Mr. Cook: Maybe we could give the seedlings out there,

Ms. Middaugh: Perhaps another rain barrel workshop?

Mr. Wells: We need to put a committee together.

Ms. Middaugh: The state ban hasn't happened yet. Many local governments have their own ordinances. The mayor didn't close the door on this idea. We should get information together of other towns who have passed ordinances. I will draft a resolution and see if we can convince the mayor and council to pass an ordinance. Supermarkets in Massachusetts will be asking customers if they want paper instead of plastic for 10 cents per bag.

Mr. Wells: Maybe the first hour of the celebration can be educational.

National Resource Inventory (NRI)

Ms. Middaugh: I would like to send another request for an updated NRI to the mayor and council.

Mr. Kiernan: We need to let them know the reasons why it's important to have an updated NRI.

Mr. Cook: I found a good article and will send to Secretary Frazee.

Mr. Wells: It would most likely have to be budgeted for next year.

Secretary Frazee to send interoffice memo to the Mayor and Council requesting an update to NRI.

MEMBER REPORT:

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: The impossible burger is now available at Burger King. It is really hard to believe it's not meat.

Ms. Middaugh: They have one at White Castle as well.

PUBLIC FORM:

Brita Wenzel, SBB Executive Director, made two announcements:

Joint & Senate Environmental Committees – Aug. 15, 2019 at 10am

Every summer the Joint & Senate Environmental Committees meet in Ocean County. This year they will be meeting August 15, 2019 at 10am at the Toms River municipal building and the topic will be recycling.

Save Barnegat Bay “Charting the Course for Barnegat Bay” – Oct. 22-24, 2019

Save Barnegat Bay is hosting a conference October 22-24, 2019 at the Holiday Inn in Manahawkin. \$10 million funding for Barnegat Bay Phase 2 was released – One project includes watershed management plan for Toms River. Manchester is part of that watershed. On Day 1 – Law enforcement community. Day 2 of the event will be for municipal community. New green infrastructure standards will be discussed. You will be getting a letter in the mail about the event. I hope some of you can join us. Day 3 is geared toward young people, educators and the public.

Karen Argenti, Resident, Save Barnegat Bay Board of Directors, informed the commission that the Town is going before the State Planning Commission for the town center. Pre-draft

Ms. Argenti met with Ms. Middaugh and Joe Veni on the Green Team and they are planning another rain barrel workshop and a rain garden project. One in the fall, one in the spring.

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: 7:40PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary