

# MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, September 12, 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
Rory Wells	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Present
Mary Demarest-Paraan	Present
William Foor	Present
David Kiernan	Absent

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

#### August 8, 2019 Regular Meeting

Mr. Cook made the motion to approve the August 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Wells, with one change under Earth Day Celebration: the supermarket discussed was in Massachusetts, not the Whiting Stop & Shop.

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

Ms. Middaugh mentioned that comments the commission had about the Dollar General and Dollar Tree proposed developments at the last meeting were submitted to the Planning Board and read aloud at their meeting. Ms. Middaugh requested that the secretary post these comments and future comments on the website.

Mr. Foor commented that the commission should keep the Planning Board meetings in mind when deciding on 2020 meeting dates.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### Replacement of Bridge Nos. 1518-017 and 1518-018

Mr. Cook: The Environmental Impact Statement shows minimal impact. The bridge needs to be replaced.

Ms. Middaugh: This is on a county road. This is just a courtesy from the county, not much we can do about it.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: Are they only replacing the bridge because they need to drill underneath of it for the gas pipeline?

Mr. Cook: The report says the structure is deteriorating. The gas pipeline is currently above ground.

Mr. Foor: The pipeline is 24" in diameter and will terminate on the south side of Route 70. The line south of that is a 12" existing line. They're not increasing the diameter.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: There is a note on drilling location. It seems that they're replacing the bridge because they need to drill there.

Ms. Middaugh: Do they really need to replace the bridge? Is there anything we can do?

Mr. Cook: The bridge is deteriorating according to the report. There's not much we can do. This is a courtesy review.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: I read that 90% of bridges in New Jersey need to be replaced. We don't know where the pipeline will be going.

### **Brentwood Estates – Sanitary Sewer Application**

Ms. Middaugh: The location is west of Route 70 on Route 571 by Rite Aid and behind the funeral home.

Mr. Foor: The Planning Board already approved site plans for this project.

Ms. Middaugh: Who pays for the sewer hookup?

Mr. Cook: The town, once it hits the street, but this can usually be negotiated.

### **Pleasant Plains Gun Club – 9/5/19 Notice**

Mr. Cook: We received a letter after our last meeting that specified the plantings must be replaced if they die.

Ms. Middaugh: I tried to reach them to offer our help but the phones were disconnected. I called Pinelands Commission to get alternate contact information for them. The plants need to be watered 2-3 days a week for 5 months.

Mr. Cook: I know someone that belonged to the gun club. I will reach out to him.

Mr. Foor: What if they die after we help them? Who's responsible?

Ms. Middaugh: This is a problem at a lot of gun clubs. They also will need help with the gravel they laid without a permit. They need an engineer to go out and do calculations.

Mr. Foor: That should be an application to the Planning Board – it's a site plan modification. The Board of Inspections should be going out to inspect if they're not in compliance with the town.

Ms. Middaugh: How does everyone feel about potentially helping them out?

Mr. Cook: I'm not sure that we have the resources.

Mr. Foor: It's worth discussing with them. Gun clubs tend to be secretive and not want people walking around on their property.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Grunin Retail Development**

Ms. Middaugh: Looks like it will be around for a while. Ms. Stavalo pointed out that part of the development will be in Toms River, other part in Manchester. Sewer and water hookup is in Toms River. I think there will be a lot of push back on this project.

Ms. Stavalo: I don't think it's going to affect traffic too much.

Ms. Middaugh: It's more about the wildlife. There are threatened species on site.

Mr. Foor: The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) they are using is from 2005. I asked the Planning Board engineer if this is acceptable and I was told that as long as the characteristics of the property haven't changed, it's probably OK.

Ms. Middaugh: I think we should send an interoffice memo to the Planning Board. How current does an EIS need to be to be valid?

Mr. Wells: If the Planning Board said they want an update, they would probably comply. We can always request an update, even if it's not against a rule to accept an EIS that old. There could be a state statute on it.

Mr. Foor: Things do change over periods of time.

Mr. Wells: There will be a dramatic change in town over the next 5-6 years with all of the projects coming up. They need to be handled in a smart way. We should be proactive, maybe the ordinance needs to be adjusted.

### **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)**

The Township has decided to go forward with an update to Manchester's NRI. They are currently in the process of getting quotes and exploring grant opportunities.

### **Recycling Forum 9/25/19 – Outreach**

Ms. Middaugh, Ms. Demarest-Paraan and Mr. Wells will come to the event. Ms. Middaugh requests that the members who are unable to attend, invite people to go in their place.

Ms. Middaugh: I have a press release drafted that I will send to the commissioners for review.

Mr. Wells: Give all comments to me by Sunday night and then we can get approval from the Mayor.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: I posted the flyer on Manchester Patch, Next Door and created a Facebook event for the forum.

Ms. Middaugh: School Superintendent David Trethaway gave us the OK to distribute the flyers to the kids.

### **Plastics Awareness Campaign**

#### **School Video Contest**

The commission will delay the contest for another month since the township is unable to provide money for a cash prize. If Mr. Wells is unable to raise the money privately, alternate prizes will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Cook: Where can we show the winning video? Maybe to the elementary schools.

Ms. Middaugh: At a town council meeting?

Mr. Foor: We just need to be careful about copyright laws if the kids use music in their videos. We could wind up with a lawsuit.

Mr. Wells: I will draft a letter to go with the flyers. I think we should let the kids do what they want and worry about restrictions later.

#### **Plastics Panel Discussion**

Discussion on whether to promote this event as a debate or just informational. Mr. Wells stated that he thinks there will be greater interest if the event is in the form of a debate – is plastic really a problem? Ms. Middaugh is skeptical about having somebody from the plastics industry bringing their slick campaign to the event and thinks it could be counterproductive. Mr. Wells asked the commissioners to give some thought to the style of the discussion.

#### **Earth Day 50th Anniversary BBQ Celebration**

Mr. Wells would like to put together a sub-committee for this event. Ms. Middaugh volunteered to be on the sub-committee and suggested Joe Veni from the Manchester Green Team may be interested. Mr. Wells will check with the county to see if they are planning anything.

**MEMBER REPORT:**

**Town Center**

Mr. Cook: Council is looking to change zoning regulation of impervious coverage from 30% to 70% allowance.

Ms. Middaugh: I will mention this to Save Barnegat Bay.

Mr. Wells: I am on the Plan Endorsement Committee. The town center request is a multistep process. They are requesting up to 70% impervious coverage but that doesn't mean they will use all 70%. It's not just one developer they will be dealing with.

Mr. Cook: They need to figure out a way to recharge the water.

Mr. Wells: I will update you all when I know more.

**Water Tower on Wilbur Ave.**

Mr. Foor: They want to put a deed restriction on the property to allow the area to be maintained for the wildlife habitat.

**Old Whiting Landfill**

Mr. Foor: The Planning Board will determine if the old landfill in Whiting is in need of redevelopment. Something we need to keep our eyes on.

Mr. Cook: Didn't they just get approval from the state to put something there?

Ms. Middaugh: That's where they want to put a solar farm.

**Ciba Gigy**

Mr. Foor: I heard in the news that they are putting a 22 megawatt solar generation facility in that area. It goes to the Toms River Planning Board on September 16, 2019.

**Aged Forests**

Ms. Middaugh: I sent around an article about older trees and how they are more beneficial. Older forests are exponentially better at storing carbon and are more resilient to climate change than younger forests.

**ANJEC Environmental Congress 2019**

Ms. Middaugh would like to attend the ANJEC Environmental Congress on October 4, 2019 at Mercer County College. Mr. Wells would like to attend, but has to check his calendar. Secretary to get permission from the mayor for two members to attend.

**PUBLIC FORM:**

**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: 7:40PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee  
Commission Secretary