

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Thursday, November 21, 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: 6:02 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL:**

Peggy Middaugh	Present
William Cook	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Present
Mary Demarest-Paraan	Present
William Foor	Present
David Kiernan	Present
Rory Wells	Absent

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**October 10, 2019 Regular Meeting**

Mr. Cook made the motion to approve the October 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Foor.

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

Ms. Middaugh mentioned that Secretary for the commission is out on maternity leave and that Mr. Cook would be taking the minutes.

Ms. Middaugh advised those present that the Commission is pledged to transparency and that all minutes and documents discussed are on the Township website.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Pinelands Commission Letter Re: Jackson Trails**

Ms. Middaugh: This is a very large development not far from the intersection of Ridgeway Rd. Route 547. Approximately 450 units are being planned and should be of concern to Manchester residents.

Mr. Cook stated that it was his understanding that the Jackson Planning Board vote resulted in a tie, thereby denying the application.

Mr. Foor: There will be a meeting on 12/2. The attorney for Jackson Trails is requesting a re-hearing due to technical issues of a legal nature.

Ms. Middaugh: The Pinelands letter concerning this project listed many issues of concern.

Mr. Cook: The Environmental Impact study was 15 years old and it was possible that protected species have retaken the land as it was vacated.

Mr. Foor: A new EIS has surfaced. The project was originally to go before the Jackson Environmental Commission first, but was then changed to the Planning Board.

Ms. Ryan Grech of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance asked to be recognized from the audience and stated that there is a Certificate of Filing on record with the Pinelands Commission. According to a 2018

EIS, there are endangered species and wildlife in the area. Many concerns have been raised by the Jackson Planning Board Planner and Engineer, and the Environmental Commission.

Mr. Foor: The reports from the engineer and planner were very comprehensive.

Ms. Grech: The applicant justified construction by stating there was previous disturbance

Ms. Middaugh has concern for trees over 4 inch caliper. They need to be categorized.

Ms. Grech will forward info from the Jackson environmental Commission. It is a permitted use.

Ms. McDowell (Public): We should support the Pinelands environmental issues.

Ms. Barbara Ryan (Public): Why aren't they being stopped?

Mr. Foor: Jackson gave a cease and desist.

Ms. Bonilla (Public): Are they an established builder in Jackson and is there a network of environmental commissions?

Ms Middaugh: There is a statewide organization, ANJEC, and it is the only network that she is aware of. We are especially concerned about the Barnegat watershed.

### **Pinelands Commission Hearing - Block 79, Lot 2**

Mr. Cook: This is a residential lot. It has a different type of septic system which is really an update to the older type.

### **Area in Need of Redevelopment Report - Whiting Landfill**

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: We should be looking at the impact for the entire area. A report will be posted to the website.

Ms. Middaugh: There is a lot of area in Manchester in need of redevelopment. The rumor is that there will be a solar farm in the landfill. It is a perfect place. A study is needed. The process is complicated.

Mr. Foor explained the process - the governing body identifies an area and refers it to the Planning Board for study. There are eight reasons so be considered if an area is in need of redevelopment. A

Redevelopment Plan can overlay the zoning

Ms. Middaugh: Why is Lake Avenue and Lacey Road an area of concern? There are 7 - 1/2 acres there.

Mr. Foor: The Planning Board must have a public hearing on this and that would be the time to bring up any issues.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Certificate of Filing - Homeland Towers, Block 89, Lot 3**

The Township currently owns the lot and there is very poor cell reception in the area

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

Ms. Middaugh: The last NRI was performed in 2004 or 2005. It is something that the Environmental Commission has been asking the town for, and they have hired a Consultant, Hyer-Groom, to update the current inventory.

Mr. Foor: It is a \$10,000 contract.

### **Plastics Awareness Campaign**

Ms. Middaugh: Mr. Wells isn't here this evening, but he is working on educational outreach trying to bring attention to single-use plastics. There was a current bill in the state assembly but that will probably be dead in a couple of weeks. 40-50 towns already have their own ordinances concerning single-use plastics.

Kathrine Gilbreth (Public) asked how to start a plastic ban. Mr. Cook responded that the Commission has offered to draft a sample ordinance.

**Electric Vehicle Project**

Ms..Demarest-Paraan: There is new data out noting significant savings for fleets when using electric vehicles. A new Mustang is due out in 2020.

Ms. Middaugh: The state energy master plan hopes to be 100% clean by 2050. One way is to be using electric vehicles. Ocean County has received an “F” rating by the American Lung Association.

Frank Dreyfos (Public): Are new Wa-Wa’s required to have charging stations, and can it be a requirement by the town?

Ms.Demarest-Paraan: No, but some are doing it voluntarily. West Windsor has an ordinance.

Ms. Middaugh has spoken to the Planning Board about this. There is a conference on December 13<sup>th</sup> in Hamilton from 9-11:30am on Electric Vehicles.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Ms: Gilbreth: Leisure Village West is having a spring fair. Can the electric vehicle be displayed?

Ms. Demarest-Paraan will bring it if possible. Ms. Gilbreth stated that cost alone should not dictate the continued use of plastics.

Ms. Bonilla’s daughter has an EV and there is a charging station at the high school where she teaches. She also questioned more information concerning the proposed park along Ridgeway Rd.

Mr. Dreyfos: Recycling is a dollar value issue. It doesn’t make sense.

Ms. Middaugh explained that our plants were closed and recycling was being sent to China. China now only wants “clean” recyclables.

Ms. Gilbreth: It’s an economic issue. Wood fibers break down.

Ms. Middaugh feels we should not have to make money from recycling.

Mr. Stavalo: There is only so much space in the landfill.

Ms. Ryan: It will be at capacity by 2035. She stated that she would like to work with Mr. Wells on the plastics issue.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

William Cook  
Acting Commission Secretary