

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, October 10, 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
William Foor	Present
David Kiernan	Present
Mary Demarest-Paraan	Present
Rory Wells	Absent
Genevieve Stavallo	Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

September 12, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the September 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Foor.

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

September 25, 2019 Special Meeting

Motion to approve the September 25, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes by Mr. Kiernan, seconded by Ms. Demarest-Paraan.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Pinelands Waiver of Strict Compliance Approval – Block 63.05, Lots 18 & 34

The Environmental Commission does not have comments on this single-family dwelling application.

2020 Budget Review

The Environmental Commission will request a budget of \$2,850 for 2020.

2019 Goals & Objectives – Progress Review

GOAL 1: Fully staff the Environmental Commission

- OBJECTIVE 1: 5 regular, 2 alternate positions filled
COMPLETE; the Environmental Commission is fully-staffed.

GOAL 2: Work with Manchester Green Team to help promote Sustainable Jersey projects

- OBJECTIVE 1: Conduct Stormwater Management outreach/education
COMPLETE; the Environmental Commission held a couple of rain barrel workshops.
- OBJECTIVE 2: Develop Electric Vehicle Charging Station report
IN PROGRESS; Ms. Middaugh and Ms. Demarest-Paraan will request to meet with the mayor to discuss the benefits of electrifying town vehicles and bringing an electric vehicle charging station to town.

GOAL 3: Promote Conservation of Natural Resources in Manchester

- OBJECTIVE 1: Advocate for Up to Date Natural Resource Inventory
IN PROGRESS; the town is planning to update the NRI and is in the process of obtaining quotes
- OBJECTIVE 2: Make recommendations on Master Plan/Open Space Plan
INCOMPLETE
- OBJECTIVE 3: Provide Recommendation to Planning Board and Board of Adjustment on Environmental Impact of Site Plans prior to development
COMPLETE; Ongoing

GOAL 4: Help Municipality Reduce the Use of Single Use Plastic Items

- OBJECTIVE 1: Support State bills to reduce plastics through Town Council Resolution(s)
COMPLETE/IN PROGRESS; The Town Council passed a resolution supporting the State Ban. Ms. Middaugh would like to take it a step further and form a sub-committee to create a plastic ban ordinance. She distributed handouts with recommended steps to develop a draft. The commissioners will speak to Mr. Wells about creating a short presentation for mayor and council about why implementing a ban is a good idea, which plastics, and what other towns are doing.
- OBJECTIVE 2: Develop / Implement Plastics Awareness Campaign
COMPLETE; Ongoing

GOAL 5: Work with Schools to Promote Environmental Awareness

- OBJECTIVE 1: Connect with public schools through Superintendent.
COMPLETE; the Environmental Commission connected with schools for Earth Day project and distributed flyers to schools for the Recycling Public Forum.

GOAL 6: Increase Public Participation in Environmental Commission

- OBJECTIVE 1: Raise awareness through announcements, articles and press releases local newspapers and website
COMPLETE; Ongoing; the Environmental Commission continues to issue press releases and post updates on the town website.
- OBJECTIVE 2: Hold regular Educational Presentations on topics of public interest: Green Infrastructure, Pine Lake, Recycling, etc.
COMPLETE; the Environmental Commission has held educational presentations on green infrastructure, Pine Lake and recycling.

OLD BUSINESS:

Grunin Retail Development Application

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted with this application is from 2005. Secretary to send interoffice memo to the Planning Board asking how old an EIS needs to be before it is considered outdated.

Recap of Recycling Public Forum

Ms. Demarest-Paraan thanked Ms. Middaugh for putting this event together; it was very informative and enjoyable.

Mr. Kiernan suggested a recycling event like this should be held every year.

Ms. Middaugh asked the public if they had any comments.

Barbara Ryan, Leisure Village West resident commented that the presentations were informative and she wishes more residents showed to the event. Ms. Ryan is part of a small environmental group called "The Earthlings". Their current focus is on reducing plastic / waste reduction as opposed to recycling. Every grocery store and dollar store sells reusable bags. Reusable bags would cost the average person about \$5; there isn't any reason not to move forward with a ban on plastics. Also, paper straws are readily available at every grocery store.

Plastics Awareness Campaign

The commission will discuss the campaign next month when Mr. Wells is present.

MEMBER REPORT:

Plastics/Recycling in Italy

Mr. Foor mentioned that he recently visited Italy and they are very strict about their recycling. The citizens buy bags, plastic bags are not given out and it works well over there.

Jackson Trails Development

Mr. Foor attended the Jackson Planning Board meeting where this application was heard. The development includes 355 houses: 4 houses per acre, and a religious facility. One of the Planning Board members had to excuse himself due to rumors circulating that he was prejudiced. They will re-hear this application on December 2, 2019.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Barbara Ryan, Leisure Village West resident, asked the commissioners what she can do to help.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan suggested she bring her friends to the meetings.

Mr. Kiernan suggested she help get the word out when the Environmental Commission is holding an event.

Mr. Cook asked Ms. Ryan if she can get articles in to the LVW monthly newsletter. Ms. Ryan said she would be happy to.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary