

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Thursday, December 19, 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: 6:03 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	Present

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**November 21, 2019 Regular Meeting**

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

Voice Vote:        7 In Favor            0 Opposed

Ms. Middaugh thanked Mr. Cook for taking the minutes during the Commission’s Secretary’s absence.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Pinelands Commission B109/L5**

This has received Ocean County Planning Board approval and has been sent to the Pinelands Commission, who is requesting additional information.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: This is a privately owned wooded lot. An antique auto museum is proposed. It has been in the works for years.

Ms. Middaugh: How can the Ocean County Planning Board review this before Manchester has seen it?

Mr. Foor: It could have been around before his time on the Planning Board.

Ms. Middaugh: I would like to better understand the process.

**JCP&L**

Ms. Middaugh: This appears to have been sent to the entire state.

Mr. Cook: This is most likely normal maintenance of tree trimming over power lines.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Ms. Middaugh: A contract has been signed for an update to the NRI and the Environmental Commission is the main contact for the engineering firm.

Mr. Wells: I know we have been asking for this as the existing NRI is over 10 years old. Perhaps we should form a sub-committee to start in January. There are so many projects in development that what happens in the next 5 years will shape Manchester for the next 50 years. We should give a lot of credit to Ms. Middaugh for continuing to push for the NRI.

Ms. Middaugh: The sub-committee should be proactive and advise the contractor of what's needed. Each layer should show different resources such as streams, tree canopy, wetlands, etc. This was last done in 2004.

Mr. Foor: 90 hours is not a lot of time. We may need more.

Mr. Cook: We need to know the entire scope of the contract so we know what to ask for and what is included.

Ms. Middaugh: Perhaps we should get the public involved and ask for volunteers to be included on the sub-committee.

Mr. Wells: I can draft a press release.

Ms. Middaugh: We can do that when we are ready to go.

### **Jackson Trails Project**

Ms. Middaugh: It was turned down by the Jackson Planning Board, but they were asked to reconsider.

Mr. Foor: At the meeting, there was no motion for reconsideration so it has died. However, I'm sure there will be litigation forthcoming.

### **Plastics Awareness**

Mr. Wells: This was delayed due to some health issues I had, but I expect it to be a 3 phase program. Phase I will launch in January with a student video campaign. Students will submit a 3-5 minute video. I am continuing to look for donated prizes.

Phase II was originally planned for a January 16<sup>th</sup> educational session, but perhaps we should pick another date due to time constraints. Over 100 municipalities have already passed legislation banning plastics in one form or another.

Phase III would be a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Earth Day Barbeque. The Mayor is on board with this and the tentative date is Friday, 4/17 in the library parking lot. More information will be forthcoming in January.

Mr. Cook: The state legislation may leave committee soon, but passage is still questionable.

Mr. Wells: There are strong forces lobbying against it.

Ms. Middaugh: It is still in Committee because the Senate and House chairs can't agree on all aspects.

(Public Speaker): Phone numbers for Speaker Coughlin and Senate Chairman Sweeny are 732-855-7441 and 856-256-9801 respectively. We should push for passage of S2776. It's being held for political reasons. Leisure Village West is having an Earth Day celebration on 4/25.

Mr. Foor: During a recent trip to Hawaii, he noticed there were no free plastic bags. A person either had to buy a reusable fabric bag or just carry out.

Ms. Middaugh: What's needed is a change in behavior. (She then demonstrated a fold up bag.)

### **Electric Vehicle Project**

Ms. Middaugh: There isn't much progress in this area. Manchester has Bronze status in Sustainable New Jersey. We would like to see at least one charging station and eventually the Township fleet could be electric. 40% - 50% of pollution comes from transportation sources in New Jersey. There are 2 bills in the state legislature that would give funding for electric vehicles.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: There are also maintenance savings, grants are available.

Mr. Wells: There are more manufacturers coming on board. Several municipalities have installed charging stations. Will get more information.

Ms. Middaugh: Possibly an ordinance can be passed concerning charging stations for major developments. We will work on paving the way.

**MEMBER REPORTS:**

Ms. Stavalo: Attended the electric car demonstration and enjoyed it.

Mr. Wells attended the Barnegat Bay event and it was very well done. It was a 3 day conference and he encourages people to attend next year. The Bay is so important to Ocean County. The League of Municipalities convention also have some interesting sessions.

Mr. Foor: In Hawaii, every shopping center has charging stations.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan assisted with the plantings in the Whiting section of town.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Ms. Bette Chosak, resident: How can I get a copy of the NRI?

Ms. Middaugh will find out. The Planner has a copy.

Frank Stavalo, resident, attended the Electric Vehicle Conference. There should be a standard plug. Jeep has an electric vehicle planned for 2022. He attended the Jackson Planning Board meeting. There is a 2 mile development buffer around the base that all the adjoining mayors signed. How can we enforce it?

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: It had to do with the possible base closure.

Frank Stavalo will make copies.

Mr. Foor was involved with the buffer years ago. It was a BRAC 95 issue. Riverpoint residents may eventually complain about noise.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm

Respectfully submitted,

William Cook

Acting Commission Secretary