

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 25, 2020
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: 5:00 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 16, 2020 Organization Meeting

Mr. Foor made a motion to approve the January 16, 2020 Organization Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Kiernan.

Roll call vote: Ms. Middaugh, Mr. Wells, Mr. Foor, Mr. Kiernan, Ms. Stavallo; yes. Motion carried.

January 16, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mr. Foor made a motion to approve the January 16, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Kiernan.

Roll call vote: Ms. Middaugh, Mr. Wells, Mr. Foor, Mr. Kiernan, Ms. Stavallo; yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Area in Need of Redevelopment – 2132 Route 37 – Block 38, Lot 4

Mr. Foor: This property is behind Mavis, by where Cooper’s Florist used to be. I think the intent is to develop an extended care facility on this property. The adjacent property may become an Area in Need of Redevelopment as well; it will come before the Planning Board at some point.

Route 70 Resurfacing – Dakota Trail to Riverview Dr.

This was a notice from the NJDOT informing us of the upcoming work scheduled.

Ms. Irene Tysh (public) asked if permeable pavement is ever used for roads.

Ms. Wells said the state would handle that. Cost and longevity of permeable pavement is a factor.

Ms. Middaugh: We should definitely recommend permeable pavement for local developments.

Presidential Gardens – Major Site Plan

Ms. Middaugh: The property is east of Colonial Drive. It is on the Planning Board's March 2 agenda. They need a variance to construct 26 units per building instead of 24.

Mr. Foor: This project is close to coming to closure. It is a large development of affordable housing units.

Ms. Stavallo stated that this development is right next to her community and she is concerned about the cut through traffic to Colonial Drive. It would be nice if it is gated.

Ms. Middaugh: There are threatened and endangered species on the property.

Mr. Foor: The development is proposing an extended buffer for the habitat.

Ms. Karen Argenti (public) stated she thinks all trees taken down should be replaced and that the town should have more stringent tree regulations. Ms. Middaugh responded that it is quite difficult to mitigate all lost trees.

Ms. Middaugh expressed her concern for landscape plans approved by the Planning Board not being adhered to. Is there any kind of database? Mr. Foor stated not to his knowledge.

Ms. Middaugh: We should recommend to the Planning Board that a process be in place to audit and make sure landscape plans are implemented.

Mr. Mike Hogan (public) stated that he has seen firsthand landscape plans not followed up on. The town should have a tree guy to enforce plans.

Mr. Foor: There is a mechanism. Escrow bonds should not be released until plans are complete.

Ms. Karen Argenti (public) commented that trees should be included in the town's Natural Resource Inventory. A detailed analysis is critical with all of the expansion going on in town.

Ms. Alicia Ashley (public) stated there is a landscaping plan not being adhered to in Autumn Ridge.

Ms. Middaugh: A number of residents have complaints about landscaping promised and not adhered to. This should be included in our request for a follow-up plan. Secretary to draft an interoffice memo to the Planning Board.

New Septic System Notices

Ms. Middaugh: Several notifications of new septic systems in Pine Lake Park were received. One of them is adjacent to Pine Lake. As the water table rises, this concerns me.

Ms. Karen Argenti (public) stated there should be a law that septic tanks should be cleaned out or inspected every year. Mr. Wells commented that additives can be added to septic systems and smaller families and other variables play a role in how often septic tanks should be cleaned out.

Mr. Wells suggested the commission bring in a speaker on septic systems. If the commission continues to see groups of septic applications popping up, it would be beneficial to the commission and the public to understand them better and how they affect the environment.

Pinelands Notice – Compliance Extension

This notification is regarding a home office that is not in compliance at 457 Old Lacey Road. No comments.

Pinelands Notice – Block 63.06, Lots 1, 5, 7, 11

Approval of a septic system by Pinelands Commission. No comments

Pinelands Notice – Block 109, Lot 5

Conditional commercial site plan approval by the Pinelands Commission. No comments

2019 Goals and Objectives

The commissioners discussed changes and additions to the 2019 Goals and Objectives List. Updated 2020 list to be posted on our website.

Mr. Mike Hogan (public) suggested the township develop a program to assist the population with getting grants.

Ms. Karen Argenti (public) suggested the commissioners look into projects that would get Manchester to the next level of Sustainable Jersey.

Ms. Irene Tysh (public) inquired about appointments to the commission. Ms. Middaugh responded that a letter of interest needs to be sent to the mayor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Plastics Project

Mr. Wells: We are currently working on the student video contest that will run throughout March. We will select the winning video(s) at the Earth Day celebration. I spoke to the High School Principal, they have a “dream team” and an environmental science class. We will issue a press release in the next week.
Ms. Middaugh: New York’s state plastics ban starts on Monday. The New Jersey state bill is looking promising. Sometimes it takes a lot of towns to take a stand before the state takes action.

Manchester’s “Earth Day Birthday” Celebration – Friday, April 17, 2020

Several vendors and exhibitors are interested in coming to the event including Cubano X-Press, Ocean County Recycling, Barnegat Bay Partnership, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Cedar Post Nursery, and a local radio station. Ms. Demarest-Paraan is arranging an electric vehicle display.

Ms. Middaugh told the public if anyone is interested in volunteering, please reach out to Mr. Wells.

Ms. Catherine Gilbreth (public) suggested the commission reach out to the Natural Foods Store. They have agreed to attend the Leisure Village West Earth Day celebration on April 25, 2020.

Ms. Irene Tysh (public) asked the commissioners if they would be interested in having a drumming group that she knows of at the event. Mr. Wells said he’d be happy to talk to them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ANJEC Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions 2020

3/7 – West Orange (SOLD OUT); 3/14 – Cranbury; 3/28 – Hammonton

Pinelands Short Course at Stockton College – 3/14/20

A day-long event featuring educational presentations that explore the unique history, ecology and culture of the Pinelands. Educators can earn 5 Professional Development Credits. The cost is \$50.

“Gone Missing: 3 Billion Birds” Panel Discussion at Stockton College – 3/7/20 (SOLD OUT)

Free Panel Discussion on the recent report of the 3 billion birds that have disappeared from North America since 1970.

MEMBER REPORT:

2019 Annual Report

The commission will create a summary of their 2019 endeavors and accomplishments.

PUBLIC FORM:

Ms. Karen Argenti (resident, Save Barnegat Bay) announced the Rain Garden Workshops scheduled for March 18, 2020: One at the High School during the day for the students and one at town hall at 6:00 PM for the adults.

Ms. Argenti presented a short PowerPoint on the benefits of rain gardens.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary