

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 28, 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.”

Time: 5:00 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 25, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mr. Foor made a motion to approve the February 25, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Kiernan.

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

Ms. Middaugh inquired if an interoffice memo had been sent to the Planning Board regarding a follow-up log for landscape plans. Secretary Frazee advised that the memo had been put on hold. Mr. Foor said according to the ordinance, the only follow-up is the closeout for the bonds. Secretary to revise the draft memo and send to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grunin Properties - Proposed Retail Development

Secretary requested an electronic copy of the complete application package from the project attorney and engineer. The comment period ends on May 6, 2020.

Homeland Towers - Block 89, Lot 3

Manchester Township issued a permit to construct a 150-foot-high wireless communication tower. Ms. Middaugh asked Secretary to find out if the Planning Board approved the site plan by resolution.

The Kokes Organization - Block 90, Lot 3

Pinelands Commission issued a Certificate of Filing for a two lot subdivision and the construction of a 300 linear foot gravel driveway. Ms. Middaugh stated the community garden was given to the township and the project still needs to go before the Manchester Township Planning Board. Mr. Cook noted there is endangered species on the property.

Suburban Agency - Block 63.06, Lot 1.01

Pinelands Commission issued a Corrected Certificate of Filing for a single family development septic system. Ms. Middaugh noted she wasn't able to find any difference between this and the original.

David & Lois Nichols - Block 99.162, Lot 2

Pinelands Commission issued a Certificate of Filing for a single family development septic system. The property is a 1-acre lot surrounded by wooded area.

OLD BUSINESS:

457 Old Lacey Road - Block 83, Lot 12

Pinelands notification regarding the clearing of 0.38 acres of forest for commercial purposes without application to the township or Pinelands Commission. To resolve, Pinelands is requiring they restore the area with seedlings. Ms. Middaugh noted her concern about the success of planting seedlings as they typically do not have a good survival rate if not well looked after.

The commissioners discussed how they could help the applicant come up with a plan. Mr. Wells suggested putting them in touch with a consultant. Item to be discussed in more depth at the next meeting.

Plastics Project

The Student Environmental Video Contest originally planned this spring will be pushed back to Fall 2020.

The Earth Day Birthday celebration at town hall planned for April 17, 2020 was cancelled. Ms. Middaugh thanked Mr. Wells and Ms. Stavalo for all of their hard work putting the celebration together. Mr. Cook stated the NJ Plastics Bill is at the House Committee, no action has yet been taken.

2020 Goals and Objectives

Ms. Middaugh stated some of their goals may need to be adjusted due to the current pandemic. Secretary to resend draft list of goals.

MEMBER REPORTS:

Green Infrastructure

Mr. Cook saw an article in the ANJEC Spring Newsletter about updates to stormwater regulations/green infrastructure. NJ towns are to update their ordinances.

Quarantine Benefits

Mr. Wells stated since there are less vehicles on the road, the price of oil is down and there is less air pollution from vehicle emissions.

NJ Electric Vehicle Rebate

Ms. Demarest-Paraan reminded everyone about the \$5,000 rebate for EV purchases, state sales tax exempt. The cost to buy EVs is comparable to gas vehicles.

NJDOT Road Expansion

Ms. Middaugh stated the NJDOT is looking into a multi-billion-dollar project to expand the Garden State Parkway and NJ Turnpike. Mr. Wells commented that it would be nice if they could just put an electric rail line down the middle.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Ryan Grech of Pinelands Preservation Alliance commented that the NJDEP is not responding to her OPRA request for the Grunin Retail Development application project documents. Ms. Middaugh wonders if the public hearing will be extended due to the Governor's stay at home order.

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: 5:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary