

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 19, 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 Foor	Present
David Kiernan	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Present
Mary Demarest-Paraan	Present
William Cook	Absent
Rory Wells	Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 28, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mr. Foor made a motion to approve the April 28, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Kiernan.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Former Getty Station – Remedial Action Permit

The commission received a biannual report on the remediation efforts at the former Getty Station on Route 37.

Ms. Stavallo had the following concerns regarding the report: (1) No testing was conducted under the garage or in the back of the lot, (2) some results on the report were not available, (3) Ms. Stavallo doesn't recall any cleanup effort occurring on the property.

Ms. Middaugh asked Mr. Foor if this report goes in front of the Planning Board to which he responded this is the first time he's ever seen it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Grunin Properties Proposed Retail Development

Ms. Middaugh: The commission reviewed this application in August 2019. It is open for public comment again. The deadline has been extended to July 4th due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There is endangered species on the property and I think we should comment. Let's think about it this month and present formal comments at the next meeting.

Mr. Foor: I drove by the property and there is a billboard that said something along the lines of "approved for CAFRA". Maybe this is in anticipation?

Block 83, Lot 12 – 457 Old Lacey Road

The commission received a notification from the Pinelands Commission concerning the clearing of 0.38 acres of forest for commercial purposes without application to the town or commission.

Ms. Middaugh: I think we should help the applicant in some way with replanting trees.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan is working a list of resources on planting trees to put on the township website.

Ms. Middaugh: Maybe Pinelands Commission can mention this resource in their letters.

Plastics Project

Ms. Middaugh: More and more towns are instituting their own ordinances. I think the next step is to do the same; ANJEC has a lot of resources. I would be willing to help draft an ordinance.

Ms. Middaugh asked if any of the other commissioners would like to help. Ms. Stavalo offered to help.

Mr. Kiernan: I think Mr. Cook or Mr. Wells was planning to draft an ordinance.

Ms. Middaugh asked Secretary to reach out to Mr. Wells and Mr. Cook to find out if they are working on a draft ordinance.

2020 Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Offer training to residents interested in becoming part of the Environmental Commission

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: We have a few residents who actively attend our meetings, we can formalize a group of auxiliary members – "Friends of the Environmental Commission"

Ms. Middaugh: We need to figure out how to go about this.

Goal 2: Continue working with Manchester Green Team to help promote Sustainable Jersey projects

Ms. Middaugh: Workshops are on hold for now.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan would like to add "Make our town electric vehicle friendly" by amending zoning ordinances.

Goal 3: Promote conservation of natural resources in Manchester

Ms. Middaugh: I have been trying to get in touch with the consultant doing the town's NRI to get an update, but have not been successful.

Goal 4: Help municipality reduce the use of single use plastic items

Ms. Middaugh: We will work on drafting a plastics ordinance.

Goal 5: Continue working with schools to promote environmental awareness

Mr. Kiernan: I think we should take this off, schools are very busy right now. Nobody knows what's going to happen in the fall yet.

Goal 6: Continue to encourage public participation

Ms. Middaugh: We received an email from Ed Wengrowski from the Pinelands Commission after he saw an article on Jersey Shore Online about our last meeting. He has offered to give a presentation on septic systems at one of our meetings.

The commissioners welcome a 20-minute presentation with a 10-minute Q&A session and are particularly interested in information about septic system maintenance and requirements for new construction. Secretary to reach out to Mr. Wengrowski to schedule presentation.

MEMBER REPORTS:

Ms. Middaugh: There was an article in the NY Times about my favorite animal, the spotted salamander. They are fascinating creatures who mostly lose their lives by being run over by cars. They are interested to see if their survival rate increases due to the stay at home order.

NJDEP turned down the gas pipeline application from Pennsylvania to New York.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: They can't reapply.

Ms. Middaugh: I attended a couple Sustainable Jersey webinars. There is a webinar on the new stormwater/green infrastructure rules on May 28th.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Irene Tysh, Whiting resident, asked if the township might consider supporting the NJ Green Amendment bill for constitutional rights to pure water, clean air, stable climate and healthy environments. Bradley Beach adopted a resolution in support of the bill.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: I've been following this as well. I think we should add it to our Goals and Objectives.

All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 5:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary