

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION– TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN**

**February 4, 2016**

**OAKHURST, NEW JERSEY**

The Regular Meeting was held in the Second Floor, West Wing Conference Room, Town Hall, 399 Monmouth Road Oakhurst, NJ 07755 beginning at 8:00 p.m.

**Present:** Chairman Pogwist  
Member(s) Von Gerichten, Gaudette, Lutz  
Alternate(s)  
Associate(s) Johnson, Stroebel

**Absent:** Member(s) Colten, Amellio, Brody  
Alternate(s) Rogoff  
Associate(s) Gulick, Grove

**Others:** Kate Maloney, Secretary  
Jack Kearns, Resident

**Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Law:**

Ray Pogwist announced that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meeting Law for this meeting have been satisfied; a copy of the Annual Notice was sent to the Asbury Park Press and The Coaster, posted in Town Hall and filed in the office of the Township Clerk on June 8, 2015.

A motion to adopt the January 7, 2016 minutes was made by Ken Lutz and seconded by Stephen Gaudette.

In Favor: Pogwist, Von Gerichten, Gaudette, Lutz  
Opposed: None  
Ineligible: Johnson, Stroebel  
Absent: Colten, Amellio, Brody, Rogoff, Gulick, Grove

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**ANJEC Dues**

Ray Pogwist explained that membership renewals were now due for ANJEC. He will contact ANJEC and have a copy of the registration form sent in and Secretary Kate Maloney will handle submitting the information and payment.

### **Meeting W/ Mayor : Herbicide Advisory Letter**

Pogwist informed members that both he and member Renee Amellio sent the Mayor and Council an advisory letter regarding the concerns they had with the use of herbicides and pesticides on township land and parks. He also advised that an article about the use and his advisory letter could be found in The Coaster on page 9. He explained that he hopes the letter will help create better communication between the Township and the Commission especially when it comes to matters such as this. The Commission may have been able to figure out a better and safer strategy to solve the weed issue.

### **Whale Pond Brook Watershed – Trail Easement Request**

Chairman Pogwist informed members that the Whale Pond Brook Watershed; where he is on the Board of Trustees, requested a trail easement on Cindy Lane and the adjacent property. Both of which are Township property. Their goal is to create a trail along the entire Whale Pond Brook.

### **Cindy Lane Family Housing**

Members discussed the proposed new family housing on Cindy Lane. Their main concerns were with possible flooding and traffic conditions. Chairman Ray Pogwist explained that the traffic study that was done only reported on small sections near the proposed development site. He suggested that the Commission request an independent Environmental firm to run their own, more excessive report. Members also discussed the possibility of major drainage issues. Due to the development and large quantities of tree removal, major flooding issues can affect properties downstream.

### **Toll Brothers – 2,000 Trees**

Members discussed the proposed development and their concerns with the large amount of trees being removed. Pogwist questioned why the Township is not requesting the \$350 donation per tree to the Shade Tree Fund. He stated that he is very concerned with the major tree loss throughout the Township with the new, larger developments being constructed.

### **Palaia Park – Orange Water W/ Oil Residue**

Chairman Pogwist informed members of a resident's concern that was brought to the Township's attention about the red/orange oily residue that has been seen in the creeks in Joe Palaia Park. Members discussed a possible on site inspection to see what exactly is in the water. Pogwist suggested that a sample could be sent to the State for analysis.

## **ANJEC Training**

Ray Pogwist announced to members that ANJEC was holding a few training sessions for basic Environmental Commissions and fundamentals for effective commissioners. For interested members, the dates for the training are March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Fracking Waste – Mary**

Associate Mary Johnson explained to members that she and Chairman Pogwist attended Neptune Township's Environmental Commission meeting about Fracking waste. After the meeting, member Ray Pogwist, associate Mary Johnson, and Rita Yelda of the Flood & Water Lodge set up a meeting with Senator Jennifer Beck to discuss reintroducing the ban on Fracking importation. Johnson explained that the waste from fracking; made up of dry residue, contains radioactive materials that are coming from Pennsylvania into the State without being labeled and is hazardous to residents' health. The importance of spreading awareness of this issue is to hopefully push Townships to initiate their own bans on fracking waste because there are none in place for the State. She gave the example of the possibility of waste being in the salt used on roadways during snowy conditions and being absorbed into the soil which could have a negative effect on the environment in the Town.

## **ITEMS FOR UPDATES:**

### **Individual Assignments**

Chairman Pogwist updated members on several projects underway with certain members of the Commission. Member Renee Amellio is still working on her Anti-Idling campaign with the Township and member Pogwist is still working with resident Kirsten Kristensen on the Terracycling initiative. Associate David Stroebel announced to members that he is working with the Township Department of Public Works on his leaf composting project. He explained that he will be meeting with them to discuss the environmental benefits as well as the possible financial benefits. He went on to state that he will be looking into a new project called "Paint the Town Red" which would replace the use of salt on snow covered roads with beet juice which is more environmentally friendly.

### **Media Outreach**

Ray Pogwist explained to members that he will be appearing on Ocean TV with member Renee Amellio to discuss her Anti-Idling project for the Township. He will also be appearing on the program with resident and business owner Kirsten Kristensen on the Terracycling initiative.

### **Green Fair**

Ray Pogwist informed members that the annual Green Fair will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Township Library from 11AM to 2PM.

**“This Changes Everything”**

Associate Mary Johnson explained that the presentation and discussion on the book “This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate” by Naomi Klein will now be held during the Green Fair on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Township Library.

**Proposed Tree Give-Away**

Member Laurel Von Gerichten informed members that 700 bare root trees have now been ordered for the Spring Giveaway. She explained that the Township Garden Club will volunteer to help separate the bundles into groups of the same species. The pickup date for the trees is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>, the date to help separate will be April 11<sup>th</sup>, and the date of the sale will be April 16<sup>th</sup>. She asked if any members were interested in helping separate on the 11<sup>th</sup> to let her know.

**CHAIR’S FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

**Plan Review** –None

**Planning Board Update** – None

**Concerns** – None

**Comments** – None

**Budget** – None

This meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Maloney

Secretary