

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

March 3, 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, Colten, Amellio, Gaudette, Lutz, Brody
Alternate(s)
Associate(s) Johnson, Stroebel

Absent: Member(s)
Alternate(s) Rogoff
Associate(s) Gulick, Grove

Others: Kate Maloney, Secretary
Jack Kearns, Resident
Kirsten Kristensen, 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 February 4, 2016 minutes was made by Fred Brody and seconded by Laurel Von Gerichten.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Whale Pond Brook Trail Grant Awarded

Ray Pogwist explained to members that the Department of Environmental Protection awarded the Trail Grant to the Whale Pond Brook Watershed. He stated that they were awarded \$3500 for the project and it will take about 2 years to implement.

Tennis Center WPA

Members, along with interested Township residents, reviewed the plans for the proposed Tennis Center on West Park Avenue. Member Norman Colten explained that the proposed Indoor Tennis Center with eight indoor courts will be constructed on the south end of the property, where the six outdoor courts are currently located. He went on to explain that the applicant proposed to place the rain barrier at the north end of the property. Members suggested that the layout be reversed; the Tennis Center should be placed on the north end of the property and the rain barrier on the south end.

Grants for EC

Member Renee Amellio explained to members that ANJEC now has an Open Space Grant Application available for Environmental Commissions. She explained that this grant could potentially help the Eagle Scout project of relabeling the signs at the Township parks. Associate Mary Johnson suggested that the Commission could submit the application for the Meadow project for funding for the planting of specific species of plants to help the growth of the butterfly and bee populations. Amellio informed members that the deadline to submit the application is April 1st.

Earth Day Fair

Chairman Pogwist announced to members that the Annual Earth Day Fair will be held at the Township Library on April 23rd between 11 am – 2 pm. He explained that there will be multiple local organizations at the event such as Sea Bright Solar, Township Intermediate School 5th graders who will be singing, and Whale Pond Brook Watershed who will have a discussion on watersheds. Pogwist went on to explain that there will also be a book review of the book “This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate” written by Naomi Klein as well as the Bike Rodeo, Chairman’s Pogwist’s observation beehive, and possibly Terracycling.

ANJEC Commissioner Training – March 12th

Ray Pogwist informed members that ANJEC will be holding a workshop on “The Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions” on Saturday March 12th from 9 am – 1:30 pm at the Tatum Park, Health Room in Middletown. He stated that members are welcome to attend.

Tree Cutting – 102 Parker Ave

Chairman Pogwist informed members of the tree removal at 102 Parker Avenue. He explained that while the tree service told the Township only 4 trees had been removed, his source explained to him before the removal occurred that possibly up to 10 trees were to come down. He went on to explain that after the trees were removed he contacted the Township to let them know about the removals. Member Ken Lutz questioned Pogwist about why he did not contact the Township ahead of time in order to prevent any trees from coming down. Chairman Pogwist explained that it wasn’t known for sure that the large amounts of trees were actually going to be removed.

ITEMS FOR UPDATES:

Toll Brothers Development – 2,000 Trees

Ray Pogwist updated members on the plans for the proposed 75 new home development by West Park Avenue and Green Grove Road. He informed members that the developers will be contributing roughly \$1.8 million to the Affordable Housing Fund. However, he still expressed concern about the 2,000 trees that are to be removed. He explained that because of the canopy loss, it could affect the flooding conditions for properties downstream including the Township Intermediate School. Member Ken Lutz stated that a study would need to be performed first in order to see if that is true.

Herbicide Use in Town

Members discussed the ongoing issue of the use of herbicide in the Township parks. Chairman Pogwist shared with members an article from True Green that stated about 12 gallons of round up was used; about 2 gallons per 1,000 sq ft on 5 of the Township parks. Member Renee Amellio expressed her concern about the use of herbicides because of the ordinance in place that restricts the use on Township property which was also referenced in the Environmental Commission's Sustainable Jersey application. Pogwist stated he will continue to push the issue with the Township.

Palaia Park – Orange Residue in Water

Chairman Pogwist discussed with members the resident's concern about the red/orange oily residue that has been seen in the creeks in Joe Palaia Park that was brought to the Township's attention. He stated that on site inspection should occur to see what exactly is in the water, but most likely it is the iron build up that has been there for years and is not harmful.

Media Outreach – Terracycling

Ray Pogwist announced that he will be appearing on Ocean TV along with local business owner Kirtsen Kristensen to discuss the benefits of Terracycling.

Individual Assignments

Members discussed the ongoing projects of some of the commission's members and associates. Associate David Stroebel explained that he is still working on his Leaf Project and will be looking to meet with the Director of Public Works to discuss the possible financial as well as environmental benefits. He also explained that he is looking into the Beet Juice project that will replace harmful salts with beet juice on snow covered roads.

Cindy Lane Update

Chairman Pogwist informed members that the proposed new family housing on Cindy Lane was accepted, but with a list on conditions. He was glad to see that they addressed the flooding issue within the immediate area. However, he noted little was discussed on the downstream affects.

Spring Tree Giveaway

Member Laurel Von Gerichten announced that the Spring Tree Giveaway will be held on April 16th between 10 am to 2 pm rain or shine and the name of the event is to be “Spring 2016 Ocean Township Tree Giveaway.” She explained that the DPW will pick up the 700 tree order on April 6th and store them in a cool, dark area until they are needed for separation on April 11th. Von Gerichten informed members that the Ocean Township Garden Club will meet that day at the West Park Rec. Center to help separate the trees into groups of the same species and if any members would like to volunteer to help to contact her.

Anti Idling

Member Renee Amellio updated member on her Anti Idling project. She explained that she will be following up with the Township to check on the progression. She stated that she created a mock up resolution for the project and submitted it to the Township for them to continue the process.

CHAIR’S FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Plan Review –None

Planning Board Update – None

Concerns – None

Comments – None

Budget – None

This meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Maloney

Secretary