

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

May 5, 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, Amellio, Gaudette, Brody
Alternate(s) Johnson
Associate(s) Grove

Absent: Member(s) Lutz, Colten
Alternate(s) Rogoff
Associate(s) Gulick, Stroebel, Natanagara

Others: Kate Maloney, Secretary
Dr. Christopher Obropta, Ph. D., Rutgers
Michelle Hartmane, Rutgers

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 April 7, 2016 minutes was made by Ray Pogwist and seconded by Laurel Von Gerichten.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

ANJEC Dues

Secretary Kate Maloney informed the Commission that the ANJEC membership dues have now been processed and a purchase order to send to ANJEC for payment has been approved.

Rutger's Impervious Cover Assessments & Reduction Plan

Rutgers' Dr. Christopher C. Obropta presented his assessment on Ocean Township's Impervious Cover and his Reduction Action Plan to the Commission. He explained that their Water Resources Program looks to 'identify and address a community's water resource issues by using sustainable and practical science-based solutions.' They look to solve water problems in the best cost effective way possible. He stated one of their goals is to restore natural water systems by using permeable pavements, rain barrels, rain gardens, etc. Dr. Obropta went on to explain that his team is working alongside the Whale Pond Brook Watershed to help reduce the Township's impervious coverage. Together, they reviewed the Township's watersheds; Deal Lake, Jumping Brook, Poplar Brook, and Whale Pond Brook and determined they make up 26.9% of the Township's impervious cover. The areas that they'll look to go to first to help improve the impervious coverage are schools, libraries, municipal buildings, fire houses, post offices, etc. Dr. Obropta advised the Commission that they should meet with the Municipality in order to create an Action Team that can take this plan and make it successful.

Asbury Circle NJDOT Tree Cutting – CTE Needed?

Member Ray Pogwist informed the Commission that over this past weekend workers from the NJ DOP along with a licensed horticulturalist examined the trees on the Asbury Circle and deemed them diseased and had them removed. Pogwist stated that the majority of the trees removed were mostly Evergreens and Oaks. Because the location of the trees was on state land, the adjoining towns did not need to be notified and therefore were not. Pogwist went on to say that the disease that was claimed is Bacterial Leaf Scorch which does not kill trees. He explained that it occurs in an early, wet Spring and that it only effects the leaves. The tree is no longer affected by the disease once the leaves fall off in the Fall. He further explained that if there was any sign of tree rot, they would've had to have taken a sample and had it analyzed before any cuttings could occur which he believes did not happen.

Mary Johnson – Alternate Member

Chairman Pogwist advised the Commission that Associate Mary Johnson has now been appointed to Alternate II.

ITEMS FOR UPDATES:

Earth Day Fair

Chairman Pogwist informed the Commission that the Annual Earth Day Fair was a great success. He stated that about 400 people attended the event.

Spring Tree Giveaway

Member Von Gerichten explained to members that the Spring Tree Giveaway went very well. She stated that more residents chose the larger tree species this year as opposed to last year due to the fact that the species offered were native to this area as well as positive and beneficial descriptions about each species. She went on to

state that because of the face to face interactions between residents and the Commissions, volunteers were able to give out helpful tips for tree maintenance as well as more information about the Commission. Von Gerichten explained that the leftover trees will be planted by the DPW

Toll Brothers Development – 2,000 Trees

Ray Pogwist announced to members that he will be submitting an advisory letter to the Planning Board and Mayor & Council advising them against the waiver request from the developer to allow them to only donate a small percentage to the Shade Tree Fund due to the contribution to Affordable Housing. Instead, the letter will advise either a full donation be made to the Shade Tree Fund or to preserve a substantial amount of mature trees on that property.

CHAIR’S FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Plan Review –None

Planning Board Update – None

Concerns – None

Comments – Associate Dallas Grove announced to members that the Ocean Twp. Museum will be presenting an exhibit on “Hometown Histories.” This exhibit will convey significant turning points in the Township’s history including the Environmental Commission’s work in 1971 with Joe Palaia Park.

Budget – None

This meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Maloney

Secretary