

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

December 4, 2014

OAKHURST, NEW JERSEY

The Regular Meeting was held in the Turner House Conference Room, Township Library, 701 Deal Road, Ocean Twp, NJ 07712 beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Pogwist
Member(s) Von Gerichten, Colten, Amellio, Brody, Lutz
Alternate(s)
Associate(s) Stroebel, Johnson, Natanagara

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

Others: Kate Maloney, Secretary

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 May 2, 2014.

A motion to adopt the November 6, 2014 minutes was made by Fred Brody and seconded by Laurel Von Gerichten.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Sustainable Jersey

Member, Renee Amellio, discussed the progression of the Sustainable Jersey Application. She explained that the application required 150 points for recertification and informed members that the Township's application had 265 points. Amellio suggested to members to try for the Silver certification of 350 points

which would allow the Township to have access to more grants. She stated that submission of the additional points can be done by January.

Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement

Renee Amellio brought it to the attention of the members that the State of New Jersey has Anti-Idling Laws and suggested that the Township adopt this law into their ordinance. The Law states that a vehicle cannot idle more than 3 minutes and pointed out that the Township does not have any signs nor does it enforce this. Associate, Gillian Natanagara explained to members that at the High School, buses as well as cars waiting for students idle for long periods of time. Amellio asked members for support to urge the Township to start enforcing this law.

Community-based Initiatives

Chairman Pogwist informed members of an ANJEC grant for community outreach / education on energy efficiency. Members discussed how the Township could work with contractors to do walk-throughs with interested residents to show energy losses in homes as well as small ways to restore energy efficiency. The members discussed possible ideas for discount services that could be offered to residents as well. Pogwist explained that the grant would supply funding for educational materials on energy efficiency.

Grove of Northern Most Atlantic White Cedars

Ray Pogwist brought it to the attention of the members that the wooded area behind the Township Intermediate School is actually a hiking trail with paths leading to small lakes throughout the area. He suggested that the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Assoc. should be brought in to map out the area and create better paths to encourage hiking amongst residents.

Letter Addressing Tree Waivers

Chairman Pogwist made a suggestion to members that both the Shade Tree Commission and Environmental Commission write a letter to the Township expressing great concern over the tree waivers being granted. Members discussed how the waivers should not be implemented and how the letter needs to address this.

Township Meetings

Members discussed how residents can be better informed of upcoming meeting dates for both the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board. Members suggested using social media such as Facebook and Twitter as a better more immediate way to inform interested residents.

1008 Grove Ave

Ray Pogwist explained to the members that the property of 1008 Grove Ave was still under review with the Environmental Protection Agency over the wetland issue.

Commission Goals for 2015

Members discussed prospective goals for the upcoming year. Members would like a more in-depth annual review and have it posted to the Township website. Members would like to examine what they have done so far and issues they are interested in pursuing. They also discussed having more guest speakers at Town Hall meetings much like the Storm Water meeting last February. Members suggested becoming more involved in the summer and fall festivals in town.

Shade Tree & Environmental Comm. Holiday Party

Members discussed the possibility of having a holiday party for both Commissions. They agreed to have it on December 17th at Babur Garden in Cobblestone Village Plaza. Member, Mary Johnson, agreed to be the contact for R.S.V.P's.

Planning Board Update – Italian American Assoc. of the Twp of Ocean

Member, Norman Colten, explained to members that he is currently reviewing the plans for the IAATO. He believes there might have been previous reports from years ago, but would look into it further.

Concerns – None

Comments – None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Maloney
Secretary