

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

July 10, 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, Gaudette, Amellio, Brody
Associate(s) Johnson, Stroebel

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

Others: Kate Maloney, Secretary
Maggie Boyce, 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 7, 2013.

A motion to adopt the June 12 minutes was made by Ray Pogwist and seconded by Renee Amellio.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Wanamassa Woods Assessment

Ray Pogwist brought up the ongoing issue of clear cutting at the Wanamassa Woods Estates. This has been undergoing planning for the past 10 years, with a wetland transition to average out the wetland in 2002. The construction plans to date are half of what was originally proposed. Member, Stephen Gaudette, raised the question about buffer requirements in a residential area which then brought attention to the issue of a tree replacement plan and if one will be in effect. Pogwist stated that

the township Master Plan & ordinances should be adjusted to allow the township to deny clear cutting because it is detrimental not only for the environment, but also devastating to residents that live adjacent to the clear cutting. Pogwist explained that this clear cutting and the increased impervious ground cover will lead to greater storm water runoff to Deal Lake & additional flooding. He hopes to meet with the Township Manager in order to negotiate a mature tree ordinance that will allow a buffer of mature trees around existing homes and some criteria to allow as many mature trees to stay in order to keep the protective features of mature trees.

Watershed Ambassador Job Opening

Chairman Pogwist informed the members that the Christie Administration now has a job opening for the Watershed Ambassador position. Pogwist explained that this is a great opportunity for someone right out of college. He stressed getting word out that there is an opening.

Eagle Scout Project

Noah Lipton, member of the local Eagle Scouts, introduced his project regarding areal maps of wetlands in the town. He hopes to work with the Environmental Commission along with the Dept of Public Works to update the town's wetland maps. Ray Pogwist explained how this project could be helpful to avoid incidences of construction on wetlands; using the 1008 Grove location as an example. Noah explained that it should take about 2 months to get approval from the Scouts. He will be working on his proposal and return to the September meeting to update the members.

August Meeting

Ray Pogwist made a motion to cancel the August Meeting due to scheduling conflicts and possible lack of quorum.

In Favor: Pogwist, Von Gerichten, Colten, Gaudette, Amellio, Brody

Opposed: None

Ineligible: None

Absent: Rogoff, Gulick, Theodora, Grove, Lutz, Natanagara

Twin Brook Apartments-Wetland Notice of Violation

Chairman Pogwist informed the members of the violation notice issued regarding the Twin Brook Apartment complex. Clear cutting was done two years ago as well as damming against the Whale Pond Brook Watershed. This action was illegal due to the surrounding area being wetlands. Permission from the state would've had to have been given in order for this work to occur, but was not. This action caused more flooding for surrounding neighborhoods.

ITEMS FOR UPDATE:

Sustainable Jersey

Renee Amellio updated the members on the status of the application. She stated that as of now, she will be able to upload and update the application for any additional or supporting material based on the Township Manager's suggestions. Amellio explained that all applications must be finalized by September 14th 2014. The application requires 100 points; the application submitted had about 180 points.

Green Fair

Member Renee Amellio explained that due to the date change, (June of this year as opposed to April of previous years) the Green Fair was not as successful as it had been in the past. Even though about 50 people were in attendance, members agreed that the date should remain for April for next year's fair. The commission was glad to see representatives from Public Works there and answering recycling questions.

Community Garden

Mary Johnson described the local Community Garden; a 100x100 lot, located behind Middle Brook Apartments. While it is still in its beginning stages, it is starting to gain popularity with new members joining. Ray Pogwist explained that supplies are provided from Middlebrook Apartments and a minimum of 1000 pounds of produce is donated to local food banks. Members of the commission expressed interest in publicizing the garden on the Environmental Commission's website. Mary Johnson inquired about establishing its own website and being able to link it to the Environmental Commission's website.

1008 Grove Ave

Fred Brody added that the county is redoing the Master Plan and the revisions for it are ongoing. He urged members to visit the website; www.visitmonmouth.com, and research the Plan.

Plan Review –

Planning Board Update – None

Concerns – Stephen Gaudette expressed concern regarding the curb stone at the soon-to-be CVS Pharmacy located on 919 Highway 35. It seems that the curb extends further than any other along that road and could be hazardous for drivers.

Comments – None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Maloney
Secretary