

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

**July 2, 2015**

**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  
Alternate(s)  
Associate(s) Johnson, Stroebel, Natanagara

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

**Others:** Kate Maloney, Secretary  
Kirsten Kristensen, Resident  
Allison Coffin, Resident  
Edward DiFiglia, 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 June 4, 2015 minutes was made by and seconded by

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

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**Response from PB/BOA Letter**

Chairman Pogwist explained to members that he received a response to the advisory letter the Commission had sent to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustments. He stated that this letter has opened the door to discussion and is

happy to see that the boards are now receiving the Environmental Commission site reviews and comments.

### **Charging for Plastic Bags in Princeton**

Ray Pogwist announced to members that the Town of Princeton is now placing a small charge on plastic bags at local stores. He explained that Princeton needed to prove that the plastic bags were polluting water ways and not just the town itself in order to approve the charge. Members discussed the possibility of this Township ever placing a charge for plastic bags and the benefits of such a rule.

### **Schools for Sustainable Jersey – OTHS**

Chairman Ray Pogwist explained to members that the Ocean Twp. High School registered for Sustainable Jersey. Member Renee Amellio stated that the district had to register first, and once the municipality was registered, the schools could follow. She further explained that OTHS was the first of the schools to register, but the others will follow shortly after.

### **Sustainable Jersey Event – Fall Fest**

Members discussed the upcoming Fall Fest scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> with the rain date of the 27<sup>th</sup>. Member Amellio explained that Energy Star TechniArt will have a booth at the event and will provide energy efficient lighting. They will be having a ‘lighting fair’ in which they will educate residents on high efficiency lighting. The members then discussed having a booth for the Commission next to TechniArt in order to further assist and educate residents.

### **Quorum – Important to Answer Emails**

Ray Pogwist explained that the members should always respond to the emails regarding any upcoming meetings in order to determine whether the Commissions will have a quorum. He went on to explain that due to a potential lack of quorum, the August meeting will be cancelled.

## ITEMS FOR UPDATE:

### **Anti-Idling**

Member Renee Amellio explained to the Commission that she is to meet with the Township Manager to continue the Anti-Idling Campaign. She is looking to put up anti-idling signs around the township.

### **Recycling the Terra-cycling Way – Kirsten Kristensen**

Resident and business owner Kirsten Kristensen encouraged members to drop off any non-recyclable plastics at her local business, The White House on 45 Monmouth Road, to be donated to the Terra-cycling company. She explained that it would be incredibly important for this way of recycling to be implemented into the school system. Resident Edward DiFiglia volunteered to look into whether the schools would be willing to participate.

### **Intermediate School Trail**

Chairman Pogwist explained that volunteer students from the Township High School along with volunteers from the Whale Pond Brook Watershed finished the

trails behind the Intermediate School by putting down wood chips and clearing the pathways. He stated that the trails are now open for the Township residents.

### **Birding at JPP – Allison Coffin (eBirds)**

Guest Allison Coffin explained her Birding Project at Joe Palaia Park. She explained that throughout her birding experience, she has sighted 117 different species of birds at the park. She stated she uses Cornell University's eBirds website to log her sightings and JPP has now become a 'hot spot' for birding watching. She is looking to get more people involved and hopes to have a sign up sheet at the Fall Fest for volunteers.

### **Meadow Update**

Ray Pogwist updated members on the new meadow next to the Township Library. He explained that the meadow is growing in nicely with paths around and through it. He encouraged members to visit the site.

### **Community Green Tour**

Chairman Pogwist announced he will work with Kirsten Kristensen on setting up a Township Green Tour of 'green' homes and businesses. He explained that they hope to present their idea at the Township Fall Festival.

### **Pervious Cover**

Ray Pogwist explained to the Commission that the Township is looking to repave and expand the parking lot at the Municipal Building. He and member Norman Colten will look into the benefits of pervious asphalt and present their findings to the Township Manager in order to avoiding any flooding after it is newly constructed.

### **504 Runyan Ave**

Chairman Pogwist explained to members that there will be no further action at this address for the 5 trees that were removed.

### **1008 Grove Ave**

Pogwist stated that the application for this address has now reached over 700 days with the Environmental Protection Agency and still has not reached an outcome.

## **CHAIR'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

### **Annual Plastic Bottle Consumption**

Chairman Pogwist announced to members that according to a new study, the average amount of plastic water bottles that a single person goes through per year is up to 270. He urged to members the importance of limiting the usage of plastics and encouraged them to use reusable containers.

### **NYC Bans Styrofoam**

Ray Pogwist explained to members that New York Has officially put a ban on the use of Styrofoam. He explained that this could help with pollution as well as recycling problems. Resident Kirsten Kristensen explained that while Styrofoam is a

non-recyclable product, there is a recycling center in Northern New Jersey that will take it.

**Planning Board Update** – None

**Concerns** – None

**Comments** – None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Maloney

Secretary