

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

**May 7, 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, Lutz  
Alternate(s)  
Associate(s) Stroebel, Johnson

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

**Others:** Kate Maloney, Secretary  
Edward DiFiglia, Resident  
Jack Kearns, 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 May 2, 2014.

A motion to adopt the March 12, 2015 minutes was made by Stephen Gaudette and seconded by Laurel Von Gerichten.

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

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**Green Fest Outcome**

Chairman Pogwist explained to members that the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Fest was successful. He stated that about 100 residents came to the event as well as members from the Commissions and Public Works. He stated that the bicycle rodeo was the

most popular event with the children, but the Master Gardener program, Garden Club bird feeder project, bee keeping presentation, and the tour of the community garden in Middlebrook were also popular.

### **Creation of ‘Co-Chair’ Position**

Ray Pogwist discussed with members the possibility of creating a co-chair position for the Commission. Pogwist stated that member Renee Amellio would be a good fit and associate David Stroebel volunteered to help with the grants and other projects for Sustainable Jersey in order to assist Amellio with her duties. Chairman Pogwist explained that he will discuss the matter further with both ANJEC as well as the Mayor.

### **Sustainable Jersey Training Event**

Pogwist stated to members that Sustainable Jersey will be hosting a training event in Summit, New Jersey on June 10<sup>th</sup> between 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. He explained that if any members were interested in going, to let him know.

### **Heritage Village – 777 West Park Ave**

Members discussed the new construction for the Senior Housing at 777 West Park Avenue. Chairman Pogwist explained that the construction work has already begun and he is happy to report that not all trees were completely removed. He stated that there appeared to be a 50 foot buffer left. He also explained to members that the silt fence for the construction debris was installed properly.

### **Clean Water Action – Environmental Conference**

Chairman Pogwist informed members of the Annual Clean Water Action Conference took place on April 24<sup>th</sup> at Brookdale Community College. A popular topic that was discussed was the banning of plastic bags or the motion to charge for plastic bags at local stores. Members discussed how this program has become popular in other states across the country and residents would opt to bring their own reusable bags.

### **‘Birding’ at JPP**

Ray Pogwist introduced the idea of ‘birding’ at Joe Palaia Park. He stated that a Planning Consultant from Jim Higgen’s Associates and Ocean Township resident Allison Higgens contacted him to see if the Commission would have an interest in encouraging residents to take up birding at JPP. Pogwist explained that he will ask her to come to the next month’s meeting to give a small presentation on her project.

ITEMS FOR UPDATES:

### **504 Runyan Avenue**

Pogwist updated members on the tree removal for 504 Runyan Avenue. He stated that he has been in touch with the Township and will view the property file and review the information on the removed trees.

### **1008 Grove Road**

Chairman Pogwist stated that this property has now been under review for 580 days and there is still no verdict. He will keep the members updated if there is any new information.

### **Energy Savings Committee**

Members discussed the creation of the Township Energy Savings Committee. Ray Pogwist explained that it is in the beginning stages and it is unclear of the responsibilities of those involved, but will meet with the Mayor to discuss. Commission members Stephen Gaudette and Renee Amellio stated that they will become members of the committee.

### **Meadow Initiative Update**

Resident Maggie Boyce discussed her Meadow Initiative with members. She explained that the perimeter of the meadow is done and is located in the field on the right hand side of the Township Library. She stated that as of now it will be relatively small and will add plants and flowers as the meadow begins to grow. She hopes to install informational signs at the ends of the meadow for residents.

### **ANJEC Grant Update**

Ray Pogwist informed members that, unfortunately they were not awarded the ANJEC Grant.

### **Whale Pond Brook Watershed Trail Update**

Chairman Pogwist explained to members that one designated looped trail directly behind the Intermediate School would be for the school use only. The remaining trails would be for the general public use. The trails as well as entrances to the Watershed are still being worked on. Members discussed the possibility of creating a Joint Use Resolution which would allow the public to use the trails behind school grounds during non-school hours.

### **Anti-Idling**

Member Renee Amellio explained to members that she met with the Township Manager as well as the Director of Public Works and both are on board with the Anti-Idling Initiative. Unfortunately, there has been no response from the Township schools. Amellio will look into a possible Sustainable Jersey Grant for signage.

### **The White House – Earth Day**

Ray Pogwist informed members that during the Earth Day Fair, he met the own of The White House on Monmouth Road, Kristen Kristensen. She explained to him that they recycle everything at that establishment. She went on to inform him of a program called ‘Terracycle’ which takes all plastic and items deemed non-recyclable by town. A resident would be able to download a UPS shipping label from the website and UPS will ship it to the Terracycling center to be recycled for free. The resident would then receive a one cent per item credit to donate to a non profit of their choice.

### **Town Newsletter**

Chairman Pogwist explained to members that a few of their projects were mentioned in the Township Newsletter. He stated that Sustainable Jersey, Bike Plan, and Community Garden were all mentioned in the latest issue. He was glad to see the Commissions work being recognized.

### **Planning Board Update** – None

### **Concerns** –

Member Laurel Von Gerichten expressed her concern over off road vehicles being used on the public property behind her home. She is concerned that the vehicles will destroy the plant life and disturb the wild life in that area. She is hoping that there can be an ordinance implemented to stop or limit the access of off road vehicles.

### **Comments** – None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Maloney  
Secretary