

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

November 5, 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: Member(s) Von Gerichten, Gaudette, Brody, Colten, Lutz
Alternate(s)
Associate(s) Johnson, Stroebel

Absent: Chairman Pogwist
Member(s) Amellio
Alternate(s) Theodora, Rogoff
Associate(s) Gulick, Grove, Natanagara

Others: Kate Maloney, Secretary
Kirsten Kristensen, Resident
Jack Kearns, Resident
Fenton & Barbara Hudson, Residents
Scott & Brenda Delaney, Residents
Jim Baye, Resident

Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Law:

Laurel Von Gerichten, substituting as chairperson for 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 October 1, 2015 minutes was made by Laurel Von Gerichten and seconded by Fred Brody.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Toll Brother's Development – Review Application

Members, along with interested residents, reviewed the plans for the proposed development of 75 homes by West Park Avenue and Green Grove Road in Wayside. Members pointed out that the plans seem to show “cluster developing”; meaning they would only construct in a certain area and leave the majority of the space open. Both members and residents expressed their concerns about possible traffic issues that may arise due to the placement of the only entrance and exit on Green Grove Road with only an emergency entrance/exit on West Park Avenue. Residents brought up the issue of drainage and because of the high elevation; they questioned if storm water will drain south toward Poplar Brook and create more flooding issues. Resident Jim Baye suggested that the builder could potentially put a retention basin at the far south corner of the property and take advantage of the open space to create a larger natural retention basin. Members continued to review the plans and explained that there was no definite tree count listed, but could potentially require the engineer to include those figures. Members noted that according to the ordinance, only trees that are 6 inches or greater in diameter are accounted for for removal. Residents expressed their concern over the potential of clear cutting in the area. Resident, Scott Delaney explained that he has walked that property before and knows of a cluster of older Holly trees that are 12” or more in diameter that would be a great loss if they were to be cut down. The Commission stated it will recommend the builders comply with the Township’s tree preservation ordinance. Members and residents discussed the possibility of having volunteers walk the site and in a relatively dense area, conduct a tree count to get a rough calculation of how many trees will be removed. Resident Delaney volunteered to be the guide through the area because of his familiarity with the property. Members Norman Colten, Laurel Von Gerichten and Associate Mary Johnson volunteered for the walk. All volunteers agreed to meet by the area that Sunday at 11:00 am.

Recycling – Info Commercial on Ocean 66

Due to time, this topic was tabled for next meeting.

ITEMS FOR UPDATES:

Gillian’s Trail

Due to time, this topic was tabled for next meeting.

Herbicide Use in Township Parks

Due to time, this topic was tabled for next meeting.

Pollinator Gardens – near White House

Due to time, this topic was tabled for next meeting.

ANJEC Congress Oct 9

Due to time, this topic was tabled for next meeting.

Anti-Idling

Due to time, this topic was tabled for next meeting.

“This Changes Everything”

Associate Mary Johnson quickly discussed a possible upcoming event at the Township Library to discuss the newly released book “This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate” by Naomi Klein. She explained that they received permission from the Library to use their conference room. She is hoping to set the dates for sometime in January.

1008 Grove Ave

Due to time, this topic was tabled for next meeting.

CHAIR’S FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Plan Review –None

Planning Board Update – None

Concerns – Von Gerichten informed members that the local Girl Scout Unit is hosting a meeting and invited members to speak about “using resources wisely.” She advised that if anyone was interested, to contact her.

Comments – None

This meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Maloney

Secretary