

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

October 3, 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, Gaudette, Brody
Alternate(s)
Associate(s) Johnson, Natanagara

Absent: Member(s) Colten, Amellio, Lutz
Alternate(s) Theodora, Rogoff
Associate(s) Gulick, Grove, Stroebel

Others: Kate Maloney, Secretary
Kirsten Kristensen, 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 June 8, 2015.

A motion to adopt the September 3, 2015 minutes was made by Laurel Von Gerichten and seconded by Ray Pogwist.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Alternate Position Opening

Chairman Pogwist informed the members that due to scheduling conflicts, Alternate Charles Theodora will be resigning from his position. He asked members if they knew of anyone who would like the position and associate Mary Johnson

expressed her interest. Members agreed that Johnson would be a good fit and would write up their recommendation and include it with Theodora's resignation to the Mayor.

Dredging Deal Lake

Ray Pogwist informed the Commission that the eastern point of Deal Lake is to be dredged which would help significantly with the flooding issues around that area.

Wanamassa Woods Meeting

Chairman Pogwist explained that he had met with Faith Teitelbaum of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association, Jerry Maurer of Friends of Deal Lake Association, Victor Benatar the Project Manager of Wanamassa Woods and William Hannerman of Aqualite Industries who oversees storm water issues at Wanamassa Woods in regards to certain storm drains not being lined at Wanamassa Woods. He stated that the various members of each association discussed how to better handle and fix the storm drains at that location. The representative from Aqualite Industries described a new above ground system that is both filter-less as well as chemical free which has also been certified by the Department of Environmental Protection which could be beneficial to Wanamassa Woods. Pogwist explained that he would like to see improvements to the Township Storm Water Ordinance in order to have stronger guidelines and regulations.

2016 Budget

Members discussed the proposed budget for next year. The following was decided:

ANJEC: \$525 (confirmed dues with ANJEC)
Tree Sale: \$500
Community Outreach: \$1,500
 Training/Roadshows: \$500
 Flyers/Programs for Terracycling, Anti-Idling: \$1000
Earth Day Fair: \$200
Total: \$2725

This figure is \$300 over last year's budget.

A motion to approve the proposed 2016 budget was made by Ray Pogwist and seconded by Laurel Von Gerichten

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

Reintroduction of Herbicide Use in Town Parks

Ray Pogwist brought to the attention of the Commission the issue of pesticide spraying on Township land. He explained that at the small park on Appleby and Wickapecko he noticed a pesticide company spraying and shortly after; about 10-15 minutes, children began to play in the same area. Pogwist went on to explain that he brought this up to the Township Mayor and Manager and the potential health risks pesticide spraying may induce. He informed them that there are safer, more environmentally friendly herbicides that could be used instead. Pogwist stated that the Township has pesticide-free ordinances in place, but needs to be more strongly enforced.

ITEMS FOR UPDATES:

Calendar

Secretary Kate Maloney explained to members that the 1 page spread for both the Shade Tree and Environmental Commissions has been submitted for the Township Calendar.

Gillian's Trail

Associate Gillian Natanagara updated members on her Trail Project. She explained that Thursday Oct 8th she will be doing a walkthrough of the newly constructed trails. She stated that there was leftover mulch from the end of summer that she hopes is still usable for the continuation of the trails. However, members advised that if it has been left in mounds, it may have developed mold and would therefore not be safe to use. She went on to thank volunteer members who came out over the summer and helped form the trails with the mulch and asked for volunteers again for when they finish the trails.

Fall Fest

Members discussed the turn out for the Township's Fall Festival. Members Laurel and Renee along with associates Mary, Maggie, and Kirsten all attended. Associate Mary Johnson stated that the turn on was about average, but the child sections with rides and games were the most popular.

Eco Tour

Ray Pogwist discussed with members the Eco Tour that was scheduled for September 26th; the same day as the Township Fall Fest. He explained that the White House on Monmouth Road, the community garden in Middlebrook, and his own beehive were all part of the Tour. He added that because of the Eco Tour, the director for the community garden may look into the possibility of having a beehive near the garden in order to promote pollination.

Anti-Idling

Due to the absence of member Renee Amellio, this subject was tabled for next meeting.

ANJEC Congress Oct 9

Chairman Pogwist reminded members that the ANJEC Congress is scheduled for October 9th. He explained that he will try to attend the meeting and therefore

made a motion to allocate \$100 from the budget for the meeting which was seconded by Laurel Von Gerichten.

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

“This Changes Everything”

Members discussed the possibility of an upcoming event at the library for the newly released book “This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate” by Naomi Klein. The date was originally scheduled for October 26th; however, Ray Pogwist explained that the Library will not be able to do that date and associate Mary Johnson explained that it could either be November 10th or 17th.

Pollinator Gardens – near White House

Resident Maggie Boyce discussed her proposed garden project at the Township field located on Monmouth Road next to the White House. She explained that she has spoken with Hank in the Dept. of Public Works in regards to this and is aware that they need to have access to the field so plantings would have to be approved. She will follow up to possibly have mark outs of where they need access in order to see if a garden is possible.

1008 Grove Ave

Chairman Pogwist gave an update to members in regards to this address. He explained the EPA criteria for building on wet lands. Pogwist stated if the applicant is building less than 4000 square feet on the designated wet lands that it should be approvable; if it is greater, then the applicant would need to donate into a specific fund. He explained that 1008 Grove Ave may be under the allocated square footage.

Blue Acres

Ray Pogwist discussed with members the possibility of Blue Acres in the Township. He explained that there is a possibility of buying out the properties on Brookside Avenue, demoing the houses, and restoring the land to become a natural wetlands habitat.

CHAIR’S FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Being an Active, Involved EC Members

Chairman Pogwist thanked members for being wonderfully active and involved volunteers. He stated that all members work hard to make the Environmental Commission great.

Plan Review –None

Planning Board Update – None

Concerns – None

Comments – None

This meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Maloney

Secretary