

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

September 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, Colten, Amellio, Lutz
Alternate(s)
Associate(s) Johnson

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

Others: Kate Maloney, Secretary
Kirsten Kristensen, Resident
Edward DiFiglia, Resident
Eugene Torough, 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 July 2, 2015 minutes was made by Laurel Von Gerichten and seconded by Renee Amellio

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Fall Fest – NJCEP Lighting Fair, Sept 26

Member Renee Amellio spoke to the members about the upcoming Township Fall Fest. She stated that both the Environmental Commission as well as the New Jersey Clean Energy Program will have a table set up during the event. She

explained that the NJCEP will have information about energy savings as well as have offer steeply discounted energy efficient items. She hopes that this will encourage residents to take advantage of the discount and receive detailed information on energy efficiency for their homes. Amellio also stated that she hopes to have informational packets on Anti-Idling as well. Associate Mary Johnson volunteered to help during the event and offered to have information on plantings and butterfly gardens for residents during the event.

EcoTour – Monmouth County w/ Ocean Twp

Chairman Ray Pogwist told members that this year Ocean Township will be participating in the Monmouth County Eco Tour. He explained that it is a 2 day event with eastern Monmouth county region occurring on September 26th. The White House on Monmouth Road, the Community Garden, and the Chairman's home will all be part of the tour. He encouraged members to partake in the event.

Climate Change: “This Changes Everything”

Guest speaker Eugene Torough discussed with members the upcoming event at the Township Library about the newly released book “This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate” by Naomi Klein. He explained that the event is to occur on October 27th, but the date is possible to change. He encouraged members to come and be a part of the discussion as well as spread the word to Township residents. Chairman Pogwist suggested that members get a list of interested residents that are willing to attend.

Pollinator Gardens Next to The White House

Resident Maggie Boyce discussed her proposed project with members and stated she would like to have a tree planting project sometime in the Fall. She explained that the township field on Monmouth Road next to The White House would be a good area to plant a meadow as well as plant a few more trees. However, previous discussion with Shade Tree member Dept of Public Works associate, Hank Kliem explained to her that this would be a problem because that land is a drainage/retention area. Both will look into the matter.

Township Calendar

Secretary Kate Maloney explained to members that the Township will be creating their yearly calendar and both the Environmental and Shade Tree Commissions will have their own page. She stated that the page will have both a small explanation of the Commissions, its responsibilities, and details of their past and future events. The page will also require a picture which could be of specific projects the Commissions were involved in or possibly pictures of certain tree species.

ITEMS FOR UPDATES:

Library Meadow

Resident Maggie Boyce explained to members that the Meadow by the Township Library was a success. She stated that the meadow came together well and she hopes to add more trails and possibly more plant species next year.

1008 Groove Avenue

Chairman Pogwist discussed the ongoing review of the 1008 Groove Avenue property. He stated that it is now been under review for over a year and a half.

CHAIR'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Drugging the Environment

Ray Pogwist explained to members the harmful consequences of flushing old or expired prescription drugs down the drains. He stated that the pharmaceuticals do not break down well and wreck havoc on the environment. Member Renee Amellio brought it to the Commission's attention that the Ocean Township Police Department has a prescription drug drop off bin for local residents. Pogwist suggested that the Commission become involved with the OTPD on this matter.

Anthropocene

Chairman Pogwist discussed with members "Anthropocene" or "Man and Geological Time." He explained that this is the idea that man is recreating earth by means of farming, city development, etc. He stated that man is now at a crossroads where we can either create change for the better or move forward toward our own demise.

Plan Review –None

Planning Board Update – None

Concerns – None

Comments – None

This meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Maloney

Secretary