

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

**February 7, 2019**

**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  
Member(s) Colten, Davenport, Johnson, Gaudette, Brannen  
Alternate(s) Mamiye  
Associate(s) DiFiglia

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

**Others:** Kate Maloney, Secretary  
Jack Kearns, Resident  
Robert Acerra, Council Member

**Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Law:**

Norman Colten 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 July 21.

A motion to adopt the January 10, 2019 minutes was made by Stephen Gaudette and seconded by Michael Davenport.

In Favor: Colten, Davenport, Gaudette, Mamiye  
Opposed: None  
Ineligible: Johnson, Brannen, DiFiglia  
Absent: Rogoff, Gulick, Crosta, Grove, Lutz, Brody

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Status of ERI**

Member Michael Davenport informed members that last month's presentation is now available on the Township website. He also stated that the interim report has been successfully submitted before the deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup> and he has not received any rejection notices. He advised that once the draft report is provided, it will be available on the Township website for the month of April and will allow for public comment. Davenport gave members the "2018 Grant Interim Report: ERI Action Plan & Timeline" which detailed the requirements and deadlines for each part of the grant. Davenport continued to explain that he will work with Township to allow email access for public comments. He advised that the Commission should vote on further 2019 meeting dates to accommodate the July and September date requirements. This is to be addressed at next month's meeting.

#### **Liaison with Township Mayor**

Member Mary Johnson informed the Commission that there is no new update on this topic.

#### **Community Garden**

Due to Chairman Brody's absence, this topic was tabled for next month's meeting.

#### **EC Website / Story Map: Jack & Mike**

Alternate Jack Mamiye stated that he is still waiting for the Town to update their website in order to proceed with the EC website.

#### **Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan**

Member Michael Davenport gave Council Member Rob Acerra a copy of the Pledge to Support NJ Wildlife Action Plan that was dismissed by the Council. Mr. Acerra inquired if it was possible for Member Davenport to attend a Council Workshop meeting in order to explain what the pledge is and address any questions or concerns the Council Members might have. Members Davenport will look to attend next month's Council Workshop.

#### **Tree Ordinance Review & Next Steps**

Member Stephen Gaudette explained that he and member Ken Lutz are still working on this topic.

#### **Green Team: February 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Alternate Jack Mamiye informed members that he met with Associates Dallas Grove and Ed DiFiglia, Land Use Assistant Tracey Berkowitz, Township Manager Michael Muscillo, and New Jersey Natural Gas representative Susan Ellman on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meeting was to establish green incentive programs for residents and businesses which would give the Town points for community outreach for the Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification. Members went on to discuss advertising the programs on both the Township website and in the Township newsletter.

#### **Sustainable Jersey Recertification Sub-Committee**

Members discussed the status of the Township's Sustainable Jersey Recertification status. Members were informed that many points have expired and

will need to resubmit new actions in order to receive the points. The Commission is seeking to reach silver status.

### **2019 Greenfest**

Member Mary Johnson reminded members that this year's Green Fest will be held on April 13th at the Township Library. She stated that she had multiple vendors that have agreed to participate. She also requested the contact information of the New Jersey Natural Gas representative Susan Ellman from Jack Mamiye in order to see if she would be willing to participate.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Stormwater Management Meeting**

Due to Chairman Brody's absence, this topic was tabled for next month's meeting. However, Secretary Kate Maloney explained that Chairman Brody met with Rutgers University representative Chris Obropta, Township Mayor Chris Siciliano, Township Director of Public Works Tom Crochet, Township Engineer Greg Blash, and Director of Community Development Ron Kirk to discuss the ongoing flooding issues in the Township. Mr. Obropta gave examples of work that can be done by Public Works to help alleviate the flood issues such as rain gardens, rain barrels, and porous pavement on municipal owned parking lots.

#### **Stormwater Management / Green Infrastructure Rules: Ed**

Associate Ed DiFiglia explained to the Commission that state representatives are looking to pass legislature that will enable municipalities to create their own stormwater programs to help alleviate the ongoing flooding issues. He stated that current stormwater management regulations are proving to be ineffective. This legislation would establish stormwater utilities that would generate funding by charging fees based on percentages of impervious coverage to both residential and commercial properties. This would then become an incentive to property owners to reduce storm water runoff and impervious coverage. DiFiglia went on to explain the changes to the DEP Stormwater Management rules. He explained that the amendments will focus more on green infrastructure as opposed to current methods of "gray" infrastructure which rely on existing pipes for water runoff. However, these new rules don't address the current stormwater volume in the state.

#### **EC Workshop – Topics to Discuss w/ Planning & Zoning Boards**

Due to Chairman Brody's absence, this topic was tabled for next month's meeting. However, Secretary Maloney explained that Chairman Brody was looking to see if members could attend Planning Board workshops to discuss proposed plans and review the tree replacement plan. Council member Rob Acerra stated that the Commission should look to submit their reports earlier in order for Board professionals to review them.

#### **Environmental Commission "Check List": Jack**

At last month's meeting, Alternate Jack Mamiye presented proposed draft documents to the Commission. The drafts included a green checklist for Board

applications, an ordinance for green building standards, and a solar-friendly energy systems ordinance. Members discussed how best to implement them. Secretary Kate Maloney suggested speaking to the Director of Community Development, Ron Kirk, as he would have the most knowledge on Board application and construction permit processes and how best the proposed ordinances and checklist could be implemented.

**Topics for Future Discussion, Presentations**

Members did not have any new topics for discussion for next month's meeting.

**Presentations** – None

**Plan Review Committee**– None

**Planning Board Report**– None

**Committee Leader Remarks** – None

**Attendee Remarks** – None

**Public Comments** – None

**Remarks for the Good of the Order** – None

This meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Maloney  
Secretary