

Florence, New Jersey 08518  
March 6, 2025

The regular meeting of the Florence Township Environmental Commission was held on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. followed by a salute to the flag. The following statement was read: "I would like to announce that this meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been provided to the official newspapers and posted in the main hall of the Municipal Complex".

Upon roll call the following Commissioners were found to be present:

Talaya Loftin

David Mudge

Deepa Patel

Michelle Kryzkalski-Ryan

Paul Ordog

ABSENT: Dave Yansick

EXCUSED: John Pagano, Melanie Mieczkowski

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Skip the Stuff Sample Ordinance

Last month, a resident dropped off some information regarding an ordinance to prevent littering. This ordinance would recommend that local restaurants only distribute plastic utensils if a customer asks for them. It is not clear if the trash and litter around town consist of plastic utensils and things handed out at local restaurants. Chairman Mudge has been monitoring the trash around the Wawa/Burger King to see what types of items are being littered in the area. Chairman Mudge requested that the other commission members take some time to look if they are in that area as well.

Councilwoman Loftin said that she has looked into a statewide program in NJ for litter abatement through njclean.org and Clean Communities. The Township has a Clean Community coordinator and there are funds to adopt a program for litter abatement. Currently those funds are used for the summer help at Public Works. Chairman Mudge said maybe some funds can be diverted from that to purchase some posters for the local businesses about littering. Councilwoman Loftin said that maybe an education campaign for the kids in town might be a better idea.

Ms. Ryan-Kryzkalski said that there is a program through the Ameri Corps through NJDEP that go into the schools. A recent college graduate volunteer would come into the schools and do a presentation on how littering effects the water run-off and the environment. The program would need to be requested by a teacher at the schools.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### A. Clean Up Day

The Commission is going to add a section to the Clean Up day that can include the busier sections like Wawa, the whirly bird and possibly The Dollar Tree parking lot. Councilwoman Loftin is also reaching out to Amazon for clean up volunteers for these areas.

6.

Some Commission members attended a meeting with The Green Team regarding the pollinator garden.

Ms. Patel is looking into the Grant and has recently requested an extension for that. The Grant will go to providing a tiller, mulch and soil to help with all the plantings, which will be taking place on May 3. The money that the township will be saving will go towards plants to hand out during the Steel Mill Street Fair in May. There is a woman on the Shade Tree Commission who will be donating plants as well.

The upcoming events are the Steel Mill event which is May 17 and the community clean-up day is April 26. Councilwoman Loftin wants to be sure there are lots of photos taken to promote the Environmental Commission and promote community. Chairman Mudge suggested reaching out to Rutgers to see if they can provide any information to handout at the Steel Mill Fair.

Ms. Ryan-Krzykalski said she emailed the two people from the High School to let them know when the Clean-up Day is. She is going to put together a flyer about the clean-up day.

#### B. Turnpike Bridge Project

There are two open house meetings regarding the expansion of the Turnpike Bridge. One is being held at the municipal building on March 20. There should be minimal effect to the township. They are increasing the capacity because the approach to the bridge is 3 lanes but the bridge is 2 lanes. The Environmental Commission should ask for a copy of the environmental report for this project. Councilwoman Loftin said she would like to see an air pollution study done before the project begins.

#### MINUTES

A Motion was made by Ms. Patel, seconded by Ms. Pickett to adopt the minutes from the February 6, 2025 meeting. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### ADJOURNMENT

It was the Motion of Ms. Patel, seconded by Ms. Pickett to adjourn the meeting at 8:20p.m. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

MRK/amh

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Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Secretary