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Florence, New Jersey 08518
January 13, 2022

The reorganization 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:

Melanie Mieczkowski	David Mudge
Paul A. Ordog, Jr.	Kristan Marter, Council Representative
Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Alt. # 1	John Pagano, Planning Board Representative

ABSENT: None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022

Motion was made by Ms. Mieczkowski, seconded by Mr. Ordog to nominate David Mudge as Chairman. Seeing no other nominations, Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

Motion was made by Mr. Ordog, seconded by Chairman Mudge to nominate Melanie Mieczkowski as Vice Chairman. Seeing no other nominations, Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

Motion was made by Mr. Ordog, seconded by Chairman Mudge to nominate Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski as Secretary. Seeing no other nominations, Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

Motion was made by Mr. Ordog, seconded by Vice Chair Mieczkowski to nominate Karen Federico as Clerk of the Commission. Seeing no other nominations, Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

Chairman Mudge thanked the Commission for their vote of confidence, but wanted to recognize Paul Ordog for his many years as Chairmen. Many of the things this Commission has been able to accomplish is because of him and his leadership. Mr. Ordog has set a high standard from almost the beginning of this Commission.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution #2022-01 - Annual Schedule of Meetings

Motion was made by Councilwoman Marter, seconded by Vice Chair Mieczkowski to adopt Resolution #2022-01. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Ordog, seconded by Ms. Ryan-Krzykalski to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2021 meeting as submitted. Motion unanimously approved by all members present. Mr. Pagano and Vice Chair Mieczkowski abstained.

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CORRESPONDENCE

A. 12/03/21: Environmental Commission's memo to Planning Board regarding LIT MRPI 1900 River Road LLC application

Discussion took place regarding the portion of the fence in the rear the Commission recommended to be removed to allow wildlife to leave the area during construction. Also, discussion on which type of species of trees should be planted that are not attractive to the Lantern Fly. Mr. Pagano mentioned that this application was heard for completeness only and that the Planning Board will be sure that all recommendations by this Commission will be complied with by the applicant.

Motion was made and seconded by to receive and file Correspondence A. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Wilkie was in attendance and addressed the Commission on the following items:

- Last night, Township Council looked at the Commission's memo regarding the 14+ acres along River Road and will be meeting with Burlington Township on some other issues and have agreed to discuss this with them as well.
- Showing an aerial of steel plant, Mayor Wilkie explained that the EPA received some money from the federal government that has been targeted towards this site. This money can be used for items such as:
 - Water quality testing
 - Cleaning and preserving the area and creating a walk way
 - Creating a roadway from 2nd Avenue (next to "Stonehenge"). We have said it would be nice to be able to drive down to the area; but, especially important for emergency services to have access.
 - Decommissioning of the road structure and creating new one near the museum.

He added the details are very limited; but, the good part is we've been included in the press release. This will all be handled by EPA, we don't get any money out of the deal, but it is designated for this site. He added we have ownership of the site but control remains with EPA until site is cleaned up. The township needs to work with developers, identify an end use, and get their help with cleaning this site up. It's a partnership. Mark Remsa of the DVRPC suggested 2 projects that they plan to take on. Supposedly they will be adopting this month an update to the redevelopment plan for this site. Now that there is access to heritage trail, we all see the beauty of the area. We are looking at items that will utilize the water in a waterfront or riverfront district. We have a tax base now; our community is financially stable. We can take our time and plan things out.

Mr. Pagano mentioned that part of the Master Plan that the Planning Board is working on is that we looking to designate that entire area as a marina district, waterfront district, and specifically promote things that you would find along the water. Chairman Mudge added whenever we had projects along waterways, DEP was always in favor of providing public access. Mr. Pagano stated any proposed use would compliment public access and use. Chairman Mudge stated when dep hears that, they get on board. Mr. Pagano stated the Master Plan is also looking to change the GM district down the river (DC Fabricators) to a waterfront district too. Mayor Wilkie explained this is so if DC Fabricators ever shuts down, it would prohibit any more general manufacturing uses from going in its place. He added we've been looking into this zone change

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for several years. Mr. Pagano stated we are looking to preserve the waterway and allowing public access. Mayor Wilkie stated we won't be able to actually have boat docks, but are looking to have marina/waterway type amenities. DVRPC will put a formal structure together of what our vision is and that can then be out there for us to hopefully find a developer.

B. Green Infrastructure Champions Training

Information was sent out last month on the different classes. It was mentioned that these classes will be recorded so you can watch whenever you are able. Councilwoman Marter suggested commissioners choose the ones that are most appropriate for themselves. You will receive a certificate for attending and that can be used towards eligibility for Sustainable Jersey Green Team. Classes are \$10 each and if you submit your receipt to the township, you will be reimbursed. Chairman Mudge stated that this not only works toward the Sustainable Jersey Green Team, but also increases our knowledge. He mentioned if there is a class that you can attend, please do. A call will be made to find out if you can still get a certification from watching the recordings.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Sustainable Jersey Green Team (discussion if any new information)

Chairman Mudge stated with Covid, this has been put on back burner. We will try to reemphasize this for this year. We will start by trying to identify things that have already been done. And if everyone identifies one thing they'd like to take on as their own personal project, we will have this done in no time.

Mayor Wilkie stated that when we talked about this last year, we thought we were really close in qualifying. Chairman Mudge asked that everyone go onto the website and print out what they're interested in; we will be able to get qualified, It was mentioned that there are 3 levels; bronze silver and gold.

Chairman Mudge mentioned that Mayor Wilkie, Mr. Ordog and he were involved with a committed for river towns, river erosion, and water levels. He mentioned that Pierre Lacombe, a former member of Environmental Commission was involved as well. He stated that Pierre's passion is groundwater and that he is a great resource person. Mayor Wilkie stated that the Route 130 endorsement being done by Mark Remsa will be presented to Planning Board and will be included in the Master Plan. Sewer plants, water flows, water rise, etc. will all be a part of that presentation.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. ANJEC Membership Renewal

It was the Motion of Vice Chair Mieczkowski, seconded by Ms. Ryan-Krzykalski to continue the Commission's membership and have it renewed. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

OTHER BUSINESS/PLAN REVIEW

A. LIT MRPI – 1900 River Road LLC

Update: Applicant requested adjournment from the 12/28/21 Planning Board meeting to the 1/25/22 meeting.

Mr. Pagano stated this application is unique because it needs Burlington Township's and Florence Township's approval. Mr. Mudge mentioned this is not one that we are asking for

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sidewalks, but we routinely ask for sidewalks if along highway. He stressed we need to push for sidewalks on both sides of the road because the township does get a lot of foot traffic from employees that commute by the light rail.

Mayor Wilkie stated that when Whitesell got their approval for Destination Maternity, that part of the agreement was they gave us 15 years to put in a sidewalk from the light rail station into Florence. That would be no problem up until the overpass. Florence Township, DOT, Burlington County, Conrail, all have to get involved. We have the right of way through Whitesell's property but have to have access to the rail spur and then through the overpass.

Mr. Pagano asked Mr. Ordog if they are still in need of help for the project at the library; the rain garden they are looking to put in in the back. Mr. Ordog stated they were. Mr. Pagano mentioned the students of the NHS at the high school is in need community service hours and are looking to help out with community events and to please keep them in mind. Chairman Mudge stated he is always looking for ways to get younger people more involved in the environment and tis would be great. Mr. Pagano mentioned the high school also has an environmental club. Chairman Mudge mentioned that maybe when things slow down, they can invite the club to one of our meetings.

Councilwoman Marter stated that she used to go into Burlington Township's high school and give presentations on solar to give them an idea of a sustainable alternative. And, she is willing to do that for Florence Township's high school if that's something they would want.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the Motion of, seconded by to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

MRK/kf

Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Secretary