

5.

Florence, New Jersey 08518
February 3, 2022

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:

Kristan Marter, Council Representative
David Mudge
Deepa Patel
Kelly Doyle, Alt. #2

Melanie Mieczkowski
Paul A. Ordog, Jr.
Dave Yansick, Alt. #1

ABSENT: Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, John Pagano

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Deepa Patel, Dave Yansick, and Kelly Doyle were welcomed to the Commission.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions.

MINUTES

It was Motioned by Councilwoman Marter, seconded by Vice Chair Mieczkowski to adopt the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of 1/13/22. Motion unanimously approved by all members present. New members Ms. Patel, Mr. Yansick, and Ms. Doyle did not vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Notice of Public Hearing – Burlington County Solid Waste Management

Chairman Mudge mentioned we had received a Notice of Public Hearing from Burlington County Waste Management. They are wanting to expand the landfill on Columbus Road. He handed out information Mayor Wilkie had brought to the meeting and pointed out that the area in red is the area they are expanding to. Mayor Wilkie stated this information is also on County Solid Waste website. He explained that basically they are looking to eliminate a transfer station and have a Landfill #3. This expansion will keep landfill operating another 20 years. Chairman Mudge mentioned that it looks to be a 50-acre expansion, which is about 50% more than what they have now. There will be a public hearing regarding the recycling in the Rutgers Eco Complex on 2/10/22 and the public hearing for the expansion will be held at the county building in Mount Holly on 3/23/22.

It was asked the reason for the expansion. Mayor Wilkie stated Landfill #1 closed and then Landfill #2 closed. They are now in the process of filling in the wedge between both closed landfills, which will be done by 2025. They are looking to expand to have a Landfill #3 to be able to operate for another 20 years.

6.

Mayor stated they are not anticipating any additional traffic and will still have same entrance to their facility. If the Commission has any comments, they will need to be submitted no later than 3/18/22.

B. 2021 Annual Report

It was asked to have the 2021 Annual Report posted to the township website on the Environmental Commission's page. It was also suggested to post the Commission's agendas and minutes on the township website.

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

OLD BUSINESS

A. Sustainable Jersey Green Team

Chairman Mudge stated discussion began last month about reinvigorating the green team. Mayor Wilkie added a checklist has never been done. This was discussed at the 5/6/21 meeting and the minutes from that meeting have been distributed to the Commissioners. There are items that the township is already doing that we can get credit for. Discussion took place as to how to get this started. There are 3 levels: bronze, silver, and gold. After our township gets designated as having reached one of the levels, then we are eligible to apply for grants for the town. To start, the Commissioners will focus on a couple of the priority actions. One of the mandatory items is to create a green team, which we have already done, but this is not listed as a priority action. The priority actions are marked by stars, such as prescription drug safety and disposal. The Commission will account for the things we have already done, and are doing, and then take action on implementing new items.

Chairman Mudge stated he had been looking at sections that had to do with green building, which may entail getting commitments from the Planning Board or the Master Plan to be eligible to receive points. Once the township has been certified, the certification is good for 3 years. You would then need to recertify, and as long as something that has been implemented to get the original points is still being done, it will count towards the recertification.

Chairman Mudge stated the Commission can get other commissions/committees involved; for example, the Economic Development Committee and the Shade Tree Commission. The Environmental Commission will be the lead in this; but, other committees can help provide information needed. He suggested that each Commissioner take a look at the Sustainable Jersey Green Team website and let him know what item(s) they may be willing to take on and he will create a master list to keep track of who's doing what and the progress on each item. Those that had had a chance to view the website offered to look into the following:

- Chairman Mudge – green design
- Vice Chair Mieczkowski – animals in the community
- Mr. Yansick - natural resources
- Mr. Ordog and Mr. Yansick – backyard composting program
- Ms. Patel - Prescription drug disposal and Recycling & Waste Management section
- Councilwoman Marter - tree planting, which will include her getting in touch with the Shade Tree Commission

It was asked if the Green Team was a separate entity from this commission. Mayor Wilkie explained that when he became mayor in 2012, there were individual committees that were to report back to the Environmental Commission on certain items, but nothing was being reported

7.

back to the Commission. At that time, he asked the Commission to be the Green Team and to take the lead.

It was asked if there is still a community garden in Florence. Mayor Wilkie stated there is and there is also one at scout house. Nothing was planted last year at the scout house, but that will be reestablished this year.

Councilwoman Marter stated she will ask at the next class she is attending for the Green Infrastructure Champions training if a person can get certification by viewing the class at a later date if they're not able to actually attend class when it's offered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dawn Liberto stated she is a new resident of Florence Township, and is a community health worker. She would like be a part of the process to help the environment and wanted to know how she can fit in and help the green team and the Commission with taking on individual items. Vice Chair Mieczkowski stated that would be great because some of the items need community involvement.

Ms. Liberto asked if it is okay if she goes on Sustainable Jersey Green Team website and if interested in any of the items, gather information and report back to commission. The Commission said that would be great. She stated she is interested in water shed, rain gardens and compost. Councilwoman Marter mentioned there is also a community group called Flash Forward Community that started out doing neighborhood cleanups that may be of interest to her too. She stated they Facebook group and the head of that group is Rae Lester.

Vice Chair Mieczkowski mentioned to the new commissioners and the public attending that the Commission also has a Facebook page, or they use the ANJEC website or Jersey-Friendly Yards as good information sources.

OTHER BUSINESS/PLAN REVIEW

A. Application PB#2021-08: Application submitted by Whitesell Construction Co., Inc. for Preliminary & Final Major Site Plan to construct a 250,000+/- sq. ft. industrial facility to be located at 900 Richards Run, Florence Township; Block 158, lot 5.01.

Upon review of the above application, the Commissioners had the following concerns/suggestions:

Lighting:

- There is no typical luminaire fixture depicted. We are suggesting a luminaire that is a downcast only fixture.
- The 5K cool is very bright and unnatural. We are suggesting a warmer bulb value.

Landscape:

- We would like a provision in place for the replacement of any failed plantings.

B. Update: Application by LIT MRPI for 1900 River Road was heard at the 1/25/22 Planning Board meeting, and applicant requested to be continued to the 2/22/22 meeting. Applicant did state they will agree to the Environmental Commission's comments in the memo dated 12/3/21.

It was expressed that the Commission is very happy the applicant will agree to their suggestions.

8.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Ordog and seconded by Councilwoman Marter to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

MRK/kf

Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Secretary