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Florence, New Jersey 08518
March 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 7:06 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
Paul A. Ordog, Jr.
Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski
Kelly Doyle, Alt. #2

David Mudge
Deepa Patel
Dave Yansick, Alt. #1

ABSENT: Melanie Mieczkowski, John Pagano

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions.

MINUTES

Motioned was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 02/03/22. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Memo to Environmental Commission from Administrator Fazekas dated 2/09/22

Mayor Wilkie commented that this memo is regarding the 14+ acre parcel on River Road. This property has been passed down over the years and part of it was given to Burlington Township to be restricted to be used as a park only. Even though it's for sale and zoned commercial property, it is restricted in what it can be used for.

B. Memo to Planning Board from Environmental Commission dated 2/10/22

Mayor Wilkie commented that this memo regards the application before the Planning Board for Whitesell, 900 Richards Run. The developer stated at the Planning Board meeting held on 2/22/22 that the lights they are using are standard for security and safety, and that these are the lights they have used for all their developments in the Haines Center. Mayor Wilkie added that there was no push back given by the Board members or professionals regarding this and wanted to be sure the Commission is okay with this. A Commissioner asked if we were interested in setting a precedent and requesting that a warmer light be used instead of what they want to use. They do not think the developer's response, "This is what we usually use.", is a good enough argument. The Mayor was asked if the Commission needed to provide another review letter in response to this. Mayor Wilkie stated that is not required and he will reach out to the Board Planner, Barbara Fegley, to voice the Commission's concerns and to see if there is another option the developer can use.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Mudge stated he had asked for some sort of lockable storage cabinet for the Commission to have in the front conference room to use. He noticed there is a desk in the room which would work fine and asked if keys could be provided.

A Commissioner asked if it is necessary to keep extra paper copies of everything. Originals are being kept in the office by the Clerk of the Commission. The majority of members stated they would prefer to receive meeting items electronically. Being everyone has access to email and receiving items electronically, Motion was made and seconded to have everything sent electronically and 1-2 copies available at the meeting. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

OLD BUSINESS

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

After reviewing the plans for expanding the landfill, the Commission is concerned there is not enough landscaping being proposed along the Interstate 295 frontage and are hoping for additional vegetation screening along the highway, as this is what most people see of Florence Township. They are suggesting a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees, composed of native species. A letter will be drafted and sent to the County prior to the March 18th deadline for comments to be submitted. An electronic copy will be sent as well.

Discussion took place as to the methane recovery at the landfill. It was suggested that questions could be asked at the public hearing scheduled for March 23rd. Mayor Wilkie stated he can speak to the County to see if a representative could come to a future meeting to give the Commission an update and answer questions.

B. Sustainable Jersey Green Team

Councilwoman Marter stated she has taken on the item regarding tree plantings and did sit down with Ted Lovenduski this week. Mr. Lovenduski is involved with the township's Shade Tree Commission. As they were trying to find different things the township may have already done for us to get credit, they determined that rather than trying to piecemeal everything together, it would be better to look at things we can do and to start from scratch.

Ms. Patel stated she has taken on the Prescription Drug Disposal System. We already have a drop off box that is located in front of the Police Department. It is now just a matter of documenting where the drop off is located, how often it is collected, and advertising the information so the community is aware. Part of being eligible for the certification is that this is something that has to have been done in the 18 months prior to applying for certification. Chairman Mudge stated that once we have advertised the information on the township website and social media, that would be the start of our 18-month window of when our application needs to be complete. Mayor Wilkie stated he believes it is already on the Police Department's website and to reach out to Marty Eckert to have it posted on our website.

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It was mentioned the application deadline date for submission for 2022 is May 22nd and asked if we have enough points to submit for this year. Chairman Mudge stated he didn't believe so and the Commission would have to meet more often to get that accomplished by that deadline. It was mentioned that we are only eligible for 30 points at this time for establishing a Green Team, having an Environmental Commission, and having a recycling center; each are worth 10 points. It was agreed that the goal would be to submit for certification next May.

Chairman Mudge suggested to have a single community event where we can piggy back several things together, i.e. shredding event, prescription drug drop off, etc., which will help take care of several things at one time.

Mr. Yansick stated he looked into the community garden and is pretty sure we have everything in place to qualify for those points. He added we can get extra points if some of the food grown in the Community Garden is donated to a local food pantry. In regard to the Backyard Composting Program, he can look into bringing someone in from Rutgers to teach the community about how to compost and possibly have composting bins available to purchase.

He also mentioned that under the Local Economy/Support Local Business tab, we do enough now, such as National Night Out, with getting the local businesses involved. There also is a "Buy Local" campaign that can be done; but, that would be something done through our Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Ryan-Krzykalski stated she can look into Farmland Preservation and Lead Education Outreach. It was mentioned that the Farmland Preservation is run by county and it is not certain what sort of input can be given from the township. Mayor Wilkie explained the farmland preservation process by using the Carty property as an example. The Carty's petitioned the state to be preserved as farmland. The State says they meet the requirement. The State then reaches out to Burlington County and Florence Township to sign off in agreement, which both have done. The State has now reached out to the Carty's to complete the process. He explained that each year, the County contacts Florence Township about who is already in the program and if there are any other locations the township would like preserved as farmland. The County then advises the township on if those properties are eligible for preservation. Mayor Wilkie showed the map of the properties that are currently preserved as farmland and explained each property.

It was agreed that there should be one point person to keep record of who's doing what regarding the Sustainable Jersey Green Team items. Commissioners are to email the point person so a record can be made to keep track of what is being done and still needs to be done. Ms. Doyle volunteered to be that point person. Members were encouraged to email Ms. Doyle within the next week or two with the items they are researching. Chairman Mudge asked if a copy of the spreadsheet could be brought to each meeting for review.

OTHER BUSINESS/PLAN REVIEW

A. Application ZB#2022-02: Application by 2039 Route 130 Florence LLC for Use and Bulk Variance and Minor Site Plan to operate a truck repair facility on property located at 2039 Route 130, Florence Township; Block 159, lot 4.01.

After reviewing the above application, the Commissioner's concerns are:

- They are interested in checking the temperature of the proposed downcast lights, as well as a warmer light setting.

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- They suggest an improved landscaping plan for along the frontage and to replace any failed plantings. Also, if any trees are to be removed, they are suggesting a tree-for-tree be planted elsewhere on the site. If the site does not have the proper room for this, then a donation to the township should be made for replacement trees to be planted elsewhere in the township.
- They are suggesting sidewalks along Route 130 for pedestrian access.
- They are suggesting extended curbing on the north side for traffic control to help prevent illegal left hand turns onto 130 north.

Chairman Mudge mentioned the update to the Whitesell application for 900 Richards Run and that it was continued to the 3/22/22 Planning Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public in attendance

Mayor Wilkie mentioned to the Commission the lead testing that is being required by the State. He stated we are fine and will still be fine because of the way our system operates. The State's new law that has been put into place directs any utilities to replace any service lines that may have some trace of lead. Florence Township has 126 residents that will be receiving a notice of potential of lead, even though no lead is showing in their water.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

MRK/kf

Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Secretary