

13.

Florence, New Jersey 08518
April 7, 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
Paul A. Ordog, Jr.	Melanie Mieczkowski
John Pagano	Deepa Patel
Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski	Dave Yansick, Alt. #1
Kelly Doyle, Alt. #2	

ABSENT: None

Also present: Ted Lovenduski, Shade Tree Commission
Marty Eckert, Recreation Director/Recycling Coordinator

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions.

MINUTES

Corrections were made to the draft minutes. Motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 03/03/22 with the corrections. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter from EC dated 3/7/22 to Burlington Co. Bd. of Co. Commissioners re: expansion to landfill and their response dated 3/30/22
- B. CAFRA Individual Permit Application re: Clark T. Carey Memorial Park, Florence
- C. Memo from EC dated 3/11/22 to Zoning Board re: 2039 Rte. 130 Florence LLC Application

Discussion took place regarding each of the correspondence items. Motion was made and seconded to receive and file correspondence items A – C. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Mudge mentioned the following items:

- On April 28th, there will be a free ANJEC webinar at noon for members regarding lead pipe replacement. The State is looking to pass legislation that municipalities would have to identify any lead piping and set up a replacement schedule. Ms. Doyle stated she will try to attend that webinar. Councilwoman Marter stated the township is already aware of this and is in the process of identifying properties/areas with lead piping.

14.

- On April 22nd there will be an Earth Day celebration and fair run by ANJEC.
- He reached out to Rutgers to see if they would be able to provide a demonstration to the residents of our township on how to build your own rain barrel and is waiting back to hear from them. Mr. Ordog stated they are having one in Bordentown on Saturday, 4/23, and will try to attend and speak to a representative.
- Discussion on Trees:
The State is giving out \$10,000 – \$15,000 grants for tree replacement, which is usually given to Shade Tree Commissions. These grants will be funded from a program where developers pay a fee when building new projects.

The Commission is also trying to craft a ‘no net loss’ trees requirement or ordinance so when developers submit applications to the Planning or Zoning Boards, they are required to replace all trees that are removed, either on site or elsewhere in the township. We realize the Commission is basically a preliminary review of an application before the land use boards and to offer suggestions; however, one of the main reasons is to bring awareness to the board members and professionals and to promote discussion during the application’s public hearing. It was asked if it would be possible for the Shade Tree Commission to draft up an ordinance or develop language as to a 1-for-1 replacement of trees? Mr. Lovenduski stated they can work on that; however, it may not be able to be 1-for-1 replacement, but it doesn’t hurt to ask. It was suggested that a list of trees we’d like the developer to use should be incorporated into that document.

Certain tree species that would not attract the spotted lantern fly had been discussed at previous meeting. He found out that there are 150 species that do attract them. Berks County stated the anticipated destruction from the spotted lantern fly is not happening as thought. Ailanthus is attractive to the spotted lantern fly but it is also a very intrusive tree, so if we make an effort to encourage not planting of the ailanthus tree, it may help with the population of the spotted lantern fly as well.

It was asked what happened to the trees taken down on the circle? Mr. Lovenduski stated that the trees had reached the end of their life and were dying on the inside. The Shade Tree Commission is looking to replace with them with dogwoods.

It was stated that at one time, we were once considered a tree city; however, we have not been for a while. Mr. Lovenduski stated an ordinance was just passed for the township to become a tree city again. The township is in the process of getting back the tree city designation, but there is a series of steps that have to be taken. One is the State requires a tree inventory every 5 years which includes every shade tree 15’ from the curb and that is in our parks, and the inventory has to be done by a certified person. The township has jurisdiction of every tree that is planted 15’ from the curb and a resident must have the Shade Tree Commission’s approval to remove it. This also means the township is responsible for the maintenance cost on those trees.

It was mentioned we do have a tree maintenance ordinance in place, which is on the Sustainable NJ list and worth 10 points.

15.

It was asked if trees can be put on the Roebling Steel Mill site? Mr. Lovenduski stated the DEP allowed the Shade Tree Commission to plant some trees on the cap, but only up around the edge. This was done memory of Michael Geary and it's called Michael's Grove.

Mr. Lovenduski mentioned that Amazon is sponsoring and helping to plant trees in Veterans Park for Earth Day on April 22nd.

It was mentioned the State is asking citizens to help catalog the largest trees in the state. Information is available online and the date for the survey is May 7th. The website will be provided to all the commissioners.

- A Vision Statement was presented at the 3/22/22 Planning Board meeting. He suggested the commission look to see if there is any way to incorporate the Vision Statement into the Sustainable NJ effort. A draft of the Historic Plan Element for the Master Plan was also discussed, which we may be able to incorporate into our sustainability effort.

It was suggested for the Commission to have its own vision statement and asked if it would it be worthwhile to have one to review each year.

- It was suggested that the Commission should find out the average height of the township's street lights. If we are asking a developer to have lower light poles, we should be sure ours aren't higher than what we're asking of a developer.
- The Commission was sent an email regarding a compost presentation. It was looked into and it is for individual use. It is a device that costs \$325 and sits on your counter. It takes 4 – 8 hours to turn food waste into powder that you can then use to put into your soil. It was found that it uses electricity, and will not be cost effective with replacement parts and filters. The Commission will look into something that can be presented to residents on how to compost naturally.

Marty Eckert, Recycling Coordinator, spoke on the following items:

- The plastic bag ban is coming up in 1st week of May. Clean Communities was encouraged to get involved. Bags are being designed and ordered, a total of 1500, which will be handed out to local businesses . The bags will come with literature and information will be posted on the township's website.
- Every year we are required to submit a recycling tonnage report to the State. Local businesses also submit their totals to us. He then enters all the information into an Excel spreadsheet and submits that to the State. This helps for us to get grants for recycling. We received \$122,000+ in grant money this year, which was actually from information submitted in 2018 or 2019. These funds can only be used for certain things. He is working to try to expand our recycling center to add more services, so we don't have to have as much hauled away. The County wants to get education back into schools and available to residents about how to recycle.
- As a part of the recycling classes he has been taking to become certified, he has also learned about composting and added, in regard to the earlier discussion, that there are

16.

bins that are designed to help break items down faster that can then be used in personal or community gardens.

- World Clean Up Day is Sept. 17th and Bonduelle (Ready Pac) is a huge supporter of this and has participated in our township's cleanup for the past several years. Each year, their staff concentrates on a different area of the township and helps cleanup that area. The township provides pizza for the volunteers. There is a World Cleanup website that we can add our township as a participating town. There are approximately 190 countries throughout the world that participate.
- For Sustainable NJ, we have had a farmer's market in the past, and is not saying we won't have one again; however, our community gardens can serve as a form of farmer's market if some of the produce is donated.
- He is in the process of having a local business directory available on the township website. One of groups at the high school has volunteered to develop that list and hopes to have it complete by end of this year. The list will include the name, address, phone number and website of the business.
- The 1st week of May is Small Business Week to help promote the support of local businesses.
- The County and the township do have Paper "shredding" events.
- There is a lot of education of various items that he would like to have put on the website, but he wants to make sure the information is correct and vetted before doing that.
- He is researching the possibility of a PSE&G grant to purchase LED lights for the ball fields.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Sustainable Jersey Green Team

Ms. Patel stated she has put together a work sheet to keep track of the Sustainable NJ items, what has been accomplished, and an accumulating total of points. She will email this to Ms. Federico to share with the commissioners. She stated she had also volunteered for the prescription program and has been in touch with Chief of Police. The drop off box is in front of police desk window. The Chief will add this information to the Police Department website and will also let her know on a continual basis how much is being dropped off. She stated that all that is left is to put together some educational material as to why this is important and is happy to draft this information.

It was stated we already have points for having a recycling depot, a green team and an environmental commission, which are worth 10 points each.

Chairman Mudge stated he will look at the Historic Plan Element of the Master Plan to see how much of that can be used for the Sustainable NJ.

17.

Councilwoman Marter stated she is working with Ted Lovenduski on the tree program. Mr. Lovenduski stated he will print out the ordinance and items that are needed.

OTHER BUSINESS/PLAN REVIEW

No discussion took place on the application updates. There were no plans to review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

MRK/kf

Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Secretary