

Florence, New Jersey 08518
August 4, 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 7:05 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.	Deepa Patel
Kelly Doyle	David Yansick

ABSENT: Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Kristan Marter, John Pagano

MINUTES

Motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 06/02/22. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. 7/22/22: Letter and information from resident regarding light reduction ordinance

Chairman Mudge stated the Commission received a letter and a draft ordinance from another municipality regarding the Environmental Commission requesting Township Council to update our current light ordinance to include more light reduction requirements. He has no problem recommending this to Township Council and drafted a letter on behalf of the Commission to consider enacting an ordinance for light reduction.

Ms. Patel asked if this would address commercial properties only? She has noticed in her residential neighborhood that the lights are not downward facing, very bright, and always on at night.

Chairman Mudge stated he believes Township Council can use the sample ordinance sent to us and cater it to our township's needs. It looks to be mostly for commercial and athletic fields, but can also include residential developments.

Motion was made and seconded to forward Chairman Mudge's letter to Township Council. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

If Township Council is agreeable to this, the Commission can then look at the landscaping ordinance and ask for changes to that regarding certain species, etc.

Motion was made and seconded to receive and file Correspondence Items A.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2023 Meeting Schedule

Motion was made and seconded to approve the 2023 Meeting Schedule. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

25.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Sustainable Jersey Green Team

Ms. Patel stated that when you do the math for how many points are needed to qualify, we need 150 and we currently have 30. Based on everything we are working on this year will add up to another 130 points. This will give us a total of 160 points.

Updates:

Historic Ordinance and Farmland Preservation – Chairman Mudge stated that with new Master Plan adopted last month, Township Council will be implementing new ordinances. He will make copies of those ordinances to show we're compliant with these items, and he will write a narrative to include with the ordinances.

Smoke-free Tobacco – It was mentioned after looking through the Township Code that there isn't an ordinance for no smoking in public places in town. This would be an easy item to do for additional 10 points.

Companion Management Plan and Life Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan (20 points) - It was mentioned we can mimic a resolution that another town has done and then have it go before Township Council for approval.

Lead Education and Outreach – Ms. Doyle stated she had no update

Emergency Communication Planning – Chairman Mudge stated he had no update

Community Gardens – Mr. Ordog stated he has taken pictures of both gardens. He will print them out and write a narrative to include with the pictures.

It was mentioned that on the Sustainable NJ website, you can find narratives that others have submitted to get an idea of what should be provided.

Safe Routes to School – Mr. Ordog stated he had no update

Comprehensive Lead Strategies – Ms. Doyle will combine this with Lead Education and Outreach she is working on

Site Plan Review – No one had been assigned to this item and it was asked if this is something we can just document. Chairman Mudge stated this may be in the Commission's ordinance that this is a responsibility of ours.

Forestry Management Plan, Tree Inventory, Tree Maintenance and Tree Planting (40 points) - Ted Lovenduski is working on this and we'll try to get an update from him for the next meeting

Improving Public Engagement in Municipal Government – Councilwoman Marter is not here and we'll get an update at the next meeting.

Community Visioning – This is something we have in our Master Plan and its elements. We can copy this and submit it.

26.

Priority Action for Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal (10 points) - Ms. Patel stated she contacted the Police Chief and they are working on putting it on their website. Once that is done, we can then take a picture of the drop box, write a narrative, and have an educational brochure regarding correct disposal of prescription drugs.

Recycling & Waste Education – Marty Eckert is working on this; the recycling depot, which we already have 10 points for, and the community shredding day needs to be done.

Back Yard Composting – Mr. Yansick stated he does not think we will be able to do this one. He stated he's not sure if it's the Buy Local Campaign or Support Local Businesses, but all the vendors that come out for the Patriotic Celebration and National Night Out should be able to qualify us for one of those, which would be worth 10 points. He will print the flyers posted on Facebook that list all the local businesses involved.

Reusable Bag Education Program – The township has already handed out reusable bags to every resident with the township calendar. Reusable bags were also given to local businesses to give to their patrons. There are pictures on the township Facebook page that can be printed out. We would then need a narrative along with outreach and educational materials.

Ms. Patel stated she will update the worksheet and try to make it a bigger font so that it is easier to read. She mentioned it is on Google Drive that was sent to everyone and is available for anyone to view.

Chairman Mudge stated he did reach out to Mayor Wilkie to see about having a representative from the Zoning Board on the Commission, but has not yet heard back from him.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public in attendance.

OTHER BUSINESS/PLAN REVIEW

A. Summary of Updates dated 7/28/22

The Commission discussed the following updates on their site plan reviews:

- The NFI (Lounsberry Tract) application was adjourned to 8/1/22 Zoning Board meeting
- The Master Plan was adopted by the Planning Board at their 7/26/22 meeting
- The truck repair facility on Route 130 was approved. They will comply with the Commission's recommendation on sidewalks, right turns only in and out of the facility, landscaping, and lighting.
- The 5-story self-storage facility on Route 130 was approved; however, the building mounted signs were taken off the application. The end user will now have the responsibility of getting their signage approved. The Commission questioned parking spot sizes, and requested less building coverage and more landscaping. None of these items will be implemented.

Because it was stated at the applicant's hearing they will work with the Board Planner on landscaping, the suggestion was made that the Commission should write a letter to the Board Planner that having more landscaping is important for environmental reasons, and not just for the appearance.

27.

Ms. Patel mentioned that ANJEC had the Certified Wildlife Habitat course this week, which she attended. She found it very interesting and is thinking of implementing some of their ideas on her property. She stated there is also an option that the township can have a little area that could be declared as a wildlife habitat. She thinks the property across from the high school would be a perfect place. It was also mentioned there's a parcel left over from the warehouse built on River Road where there's a walking path would also be ideal. A lot of space is not needed to have these wildlife habitats.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski
Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Secretary

MRK/kf