

Florence, New Jersey 08518
May 4, 2023

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 7:01 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	Melanie Mieczkowski
David Mudge	Paul Ordog
Dave Yansick	

ABSENT: John Pagano, Deepa Patel, Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Kelly Doyle

MINUTES

Motion was made by Ms. Mieczkowski, seconded by Councilwoman Marter to adopt the minutes from the March 6, 2023 meeting as submitted. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Township Council Resolution 2023-84 – Complete and Green Streets

Councilwoman Marter mentioned this resolution was passed by Township Council to meet some of the requirements for Sustainable Jersey.

It was the Motion of Ms. Mieczkowski, seconded by Councilwoman Marter to receive and file Item A. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

B. Email Regarding County Recycling Tour

It was mentioned the tour allowed only 2 members from the Commission to attend. Ms. Mieczkowski and Councilwoman Marter both stated they would like to attend.

Motion was made by Ms. Mieczkowski, seconded by Mr. Yansick to receive and file Item B. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2022 Annual Report

No issues regarding the report were mentioned. It was noted that the Lighting Ordinance that the Commission has been working on, even though started in 2022, has still not yet been completed so this will be an item for the 2023 Annual Report.

It was the Motion of Councilwoman Marter, seconded by Mr. Ordog to approve the 2022 Annual Report. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Sustainable Jersey Green Team

Councilwoman Marter mentioned the email sent out by Ms. Patel with an update. Ms. Patel had stated the information for the Bronze Level has been uploaded to the site and is ready for submission. The deadline for submission is next week.

11.

Chairman Mudge thanked all for their participation in this project. It was mentioned Mr. Ordog had gotten this started and Ms. Patel had taken on the tracking of all the items and keeping record of what had been accomplished and what still needed to be done.

Councilwoman Marter mentioned that they continue to work towards becoming paperless; however, that is still a long way off. The hope is to get people less reliant on paper by having all information available on the website. The township has a new Communications Manager who is very well versed on what it takes for this to be accomplished and is working with the township's IT company and website master for more consistency in and accessibility to the information.

B. ANJEC Grants

Chairman Mudge had mentioned he went online to familiarize himself with the grants offered by ANJEC and was not able to find them. He remembers there were 2 he was interested in; invasive species and a township tree inventory. He believes the tree inventory is something the township has been looking into having done.

Chairman Mudge also mentioned he is interested in taking a look at all the township owned properties for ones that are not developable and revert one or more back to its natural state to encourage migratory birds, native plants, etc. This could be something a grant could be applied to as well.

Ms. Mieczkowski stated she is interested in pollinator gardens.

Councilwoman Marter stated she met with the President of Crafts Creek Watershed Association, Kate O'Callaghan on the property Project Freedom has approval to build on. A friend of Councilwoman Marter had told her about an area she goes to relax that has a lot of butterflies. With the proposed Project Freedom development, all the butterflies, insects, plants, etc. will be gone. Councilwoman Marter thought that maybe these could be relocated to another area if one can be found.

Discussion took place and it was mentioned that if we start laying the groundwork now and find an area and what type of species that would attract the butterflies and insects, they would have a place to go to when they find themselves needing to relocate.

It was suggested to have Ms. O'Callaghan come and speak with the Commission. Councilwoman Marter stated she can get that arranged.

Chairman Mudge stated he would like to decide at the next meeting a couple of goals that the Commission would like to focus on. He will send a memo out to everyone asking them to have ideas in mind at the next meeting so that a decision can be made on which projects to work towards.

OTHER BUSINESS/PLAN REVIEW

No other business was discussed, and there was no plan review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the Motion of Councilwoman Marter, seconded by Mr. Yansick to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Secretary

MRK/kf