

Florence, New Jersey 08518  
August 3, 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 7:07 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:

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| Kristan Marter, Council Representative | Melanie Mieczkowski                        |
| David Mudge                            | Deepa Patel                                |
| Paul Ordog                             | John Pagano, Planning Board Representative |

ABSENT: Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Kelly Doyle, Dave Yansick

MINUTES

Motion was made by Ms. Patel, seconded by Councilwoman Marter to adopt the minutes from the June 1, 2023 meeting as submitted. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. 06/06/23 – Letter from NJDEP regarding Burl. Co. Resource Recovery Complex
- B. 07/24/23 – Letter from NJDEP regarding Final Solid Waste Facility Permit Renewal for Burl. Co. Resource Recovery Complex
- C. 07/27/23 – Notice from Twp. Engineers regarding proposed pier at Roebling Park

Discussion took place regarding Item B. Chairman Mudge stated it is a nice document to refer to and it describes how the landfill is to be constructed and operated. Ms. Patel commented on I7 in the document; Air Pollution Control. She interprets it to be that they will be putting in control measures as to the smell and commented that this is not a new issue because there has been and still are ongoing issues with smell. There are times you can smell the landfill on Florence Columbus Road near Old York Road, but not all the time. She questioned if the expansion is going to make the smell worse or are they going to enhance the odor control process? Councilwoman Marter stated they are allowed to have smell on-site, but not off-site.

Chairman Mudge stated the landfill is currently only concerned if a resident is smelling odor on their property. Residents have to call them if they can smell it from their property, but not if they are just driving by. There is a number to call on their website.

It was the Motion of Mr. Pagano, seconded by Mr. Ordog to receive and file Correspondence Items A-C. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2024 Meeting Schedule

The anticipated dates for the 2024 meeting schedule are determined early so the dates can be included in the township calendar.

It was the Motion of Mr. Ordog, seconded by Mr. Pagano to approve the anticipated meeting dates for 2024. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

16.

## OLD BUSINESS

### A. Draft Lighting Ordinance – Update

Chairman Mudge stated the revised draft that included all the commission's comments was presented to the Planning Board. The Planning Board has some concerns as it's written and would like to see the commercial section and residential section separated.

Mr. Pagano stated he had mentioned in the Planning Board meeting that the Environmental Commission is mainly interested in the ordinance relating to big commercial developments and new residential developments. The Planning Board realizes it's not meant for residential, but would like it more refined so residents are not confused as to what applies to them. Guidelines for residential will be separated from commercial requirements. It was sent to the Planning Board for them to determine consistency to Master Plan. If the Planning Board says it is consistent, it then gets referred to township council. Because they are concerned about the residents, the Planning Board has tabled the draft ordinance until revisions can be made.

Councilwoman Marter mentioned that Councilman Haas had asked in the 7/5/23 council meeting about if the ordinance would also pertain to interior lighting. It was mentioned the ordinance is not meant for interior lighting, only external. Mr. Pagano stated the Planning Board has the same understanding and nothing regarding interior lighting was mentioned at their meeting.

Colliers Engineering is revising the draft ordinance, and it will go back to Planning Board. This is a formatting change not a substantive change.

### B. Sustainable Jersey

#### 1. Township Council Resolution 2023-142 – Reestablishing a “Green Team”

Regarding Sustainable Jersey, Ms. Patel stated she did get feedback on their submitted application and all those items have been addressed.

Regarding Resolution 2023-142, Ms. Patel commented that it says the Environmental Commission has been reestablished as the “Green Team” and that the commission has to provide quarterly reports to Township Council, Board of Education, Planning Board & Zoning Board. She questioned why the Board of Education is included.

Councilwoman Marter suggested that this may be a way of making the Board of Education aware of what projects are ongoing so students involved in their environmental club can get involved.

Discussion took place as to how and who is going to write these reports now that they are quarterly and not annually. Nothing definite was determined.

### C. ANJEC Grants

Vice Chair Mieczkowski stated she found information on Facebook regarding pollinator gardens and grants available. There is help available through the Whitesbog Preservation Trust. Chairman Mudge stated Pineland Nursery helps with indigenous plants.

It was determined that the main thing to do is to look for a location and enlist the help of the High School students. Ms. Patel added to be eligible to apply for a grant, at least 80 works hours towards the project has to be provided. It would be possible to complete a project in less than a day if you have enough volunteers.

Chairman Mudge stated he would also like to do something for invasive species.

17.

On a different subject, Ms. Patel mentioned the county has requested to have someone from the Environmental Commission attend at their county shredding events. She thinks we should look into doing this. Chairman Mudge stated that would be a great opportunity to hand out reusable bags or information. Mr. Ordog stated the next 2 county shredding events are October 22<sup>nd</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM – 1 PM; both dates are on a Sunday.

**OTHER BUSINESS/PLAN REVIEW**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was the Motion of Councilwoman Marter, seconded by Ms. Patel to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

MRK/kf

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Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Secretary