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Florence, New Jersey 08518  
October 3, 2024

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:

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| David Mudge         | Paul Ordog     |
| Melanie Mieczkowski | Deepa Patel    |
| Talaya Loftin       | Saphan Pickett |

ABSENT: Michelle Ryan-Kryzkalski, John Pagano, Dave Yansick

#### OLD BUSINESS

- A. Landscape and Species Discussion re: PB#2024-02 for Preliminary Major Site Plan Approval for Phase 2 on Block 158, Lot 7 1200 John Galt Way

Planning Board Planner Michelle Taylor's report was given to the Environmental Commission to discuss items such as lighting and landscaping.

- Environmental Commission agrees with item D5 in Planner Taylor's report that the building mounted lighting discrepancies need to be reconciled.
- The Commission is unsure if the Planner's comments reflect the current lighting ordinance that was passed last year.
- The Commission is not in favor of Item E3 which requests a waiver from the maximum .25 footcandles at the property line. They are also not in favor of the request of a waiver for the maximum mounting height of 24 feet to permit pole mounted fixtures to be 30 feet from ground level.
- The Commission is in favor of item E6 which suggests the Planning Board and Applicant discuss the hours that the lights will operate and consider potential reduction overnight to security levels or utilization of motion sensors/timer. Also, E7 which states that the reduction after hours should be clearly specified.
- The Commission requests that the LED lighting range adheres to the current lighting ordinance which is 3,000-3,500 degree Kelvin.
- The Lighting Plan should provide information such as a lighting schedule, maximum, minimum, average, during operating and nonoperating hours. The average to minimum uniformity ratio should be provided for each parking area for automobiles and trailers and loading areas. The discrepancies between the listed quantities for lights on the plan needs to be reconciled as well.
- The Commission agrees that a waiver should be sought for any trees greater than 6 inches in caliper to be removed.

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- Chairman Mudge doesn't agree that White Oak is difficult to establish. The Commission thinks it is important to plant White Oaks that provide acorns for the wildlife. Other types of oaks have trouble with the branches drooping.
- The Commission agrees that all street trees and buffer plantings be bonded as permitted by State Law.

A Motion was made by Ms. Patel, seconded by Ms. Mieczkowski to send the Commission's report to the Planning Board for review. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### A. 2025 Meeting Dates

A Motion was made by Ms. Patel, seconded by Ms. Loftin to approve the 2025 Meeting dates. Motion unanimously approved by all members present

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### A. Community Gardens

Ms. Pickett said that the Bordentown Green Team is interested in working with the Commission. There will need to be a meeting to go over the details. The Bordentown Green Team has some ideas and projects that the Environmental Commission can use.

The funding that was received will be used for the Florence Community Gardens. Ms. Loftin said that she spoke to Frank Baldorossi about the funding being for the Florence Community Gardens and he was ok with that.

Ms. Loftin recently received a leadership award from the NJ Environmental Congress. During that, there was a conference going on and there were several resources there including a Native Plant Society, South Jersey Chapter and they are willing to gift some items like seeds to the garden project. Ms. Loftin said the Society is willing to help in any way with resources. Ms. Loftin was also able to get contact information from the EPA and DEP to assist.

Chairman Mudge said that the township has compost near the Public Works building but it is not for individuals. Ms. Pickett said that one thing the grant would have gone to was a compost project, but would like to continue this project without the grant. Without the funding, it is still possible to lay the groundwork for the project. Ms. Pickett said some towns she knows of received grants to give residents free home composters & rain barrels.

Ms. Patel recently received an email from the Steel Mill Street Fair asking the Commission to sign up for a table again. The Commission will sign up for a table again since that was a great way to get people interested in the Green Team.

Mr. Ordog said the Library Committee has also been talking about a rain garden for a few years and he contacted the Scouts for an Eagle Scout project but hasn't heard back. There is a 15'x15' grass area between the library and the parking lot which is an ideal location for a rain garden. Mr. Ordog is going to bring the rain garden information to the next library meeting.

The Commission would also like to schedule a Green Team meeting for Friday, October 18 and are also looking into meeting virtually in the future.

Ms. Loftin also has information about a company that is willing to partner with the Township to distribute rain barrels to residents. There is also an Organic Waste Management Summit about composting and soil

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on Oct 16 at the Rutgers Eco Complex. There also needs to be a date selected for the groundbreaking of the pollinator garden.

Several of the Commissioners mentioned that there are odors throughout the town. Ms. Patel had the county health department come to her house and make a report and submit it to the landfill. The representative said that the more people call, the better. He also said the landfill can produce gasses that come out from the ground miles away.

Ms. Loftin is also working on getting the Commission its own space on the township website. The Commission also needs to work on the social media posts to keep the Sustainable NJ certification.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present

#### ADJOURNMENT

It was the Motion of Mr. Ordog , seconded by Ms. Loftin to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

MRK/amh

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Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Secretary