

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF

JANUARY 12, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Secretary Gandy. She announced that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Present: Ken McGill, Pat Smith, Amy Wright, John Nardone and Julie Gandy. Absent: Jim D'Ambrosio and Walt Birbeck.

Secretary Gandy called for nominations for Chairman. Ken nominated John Nardone, Pat seconded the nomination. Gandy closed the nominations. All present approved.

Chairman Nardone called for nominations for Vice Chair. Ken nominated Pat Smith who graciously declined. John nominated Ken McGill. Julie seconded the nomination. Nardone closed the nominations. All present approved.

Chairman Nardone called for nominations for Secretary. Ken nominated Julie Gandy. Pat seconded the nomination. Nardone closed the nominations. All present approved.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of December 8, 2015 by Ken seconded by Pat. Minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS

ANJEC: Julie report that there will be a course on Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions on Saturday, March 5 from 9 to 1:30 at the Riverwinds Community Center. Pat, Amy and Julie will attend. Cost is \$35.00 each. Also, according to *South Jersey Land and Water Trust*, the "Open Space Implementation" bill was passed by the Senate and is on the Governor's desk for his signature. Pat asked if we are eligible for funds under the Clean Communities program. Julie will contact ANJEC.

Sustainable Jersey: Pat reported that we are currently in the Bronze category with 150 points. We need 40 points to update to the required 150. This is mostly due to certain categories lasting only a year. She recommends we move up to the Silver category which is 350 points. She will meet with the Green Team to work on updating our requirements for the Bronze category. Also there are several programs available: "Complete Streets" at Rowen University on January 20th from 9-2; "Rutgers Environmental Stewardship" in Atlantic City.

Plastic Bag Recycling: Pat reported she had a conference call with Don Lubin from Greenwich. He is involved with the First National Lego League. Ten (10) Philadelphia students in 4th grade want to do a program on plastic bag recycling. They walked to City Hall to try to start this program but found the City is trying to ban plastic bags outright.

Status of Signs at Lake Audrey: John reported that the last sign is not yet installed. There will be a photo op on Saturday January 16th at 10:30am at Lake Audrey, weather permitting. Also, John received email from a resident that a plant is incorrectly identified. John spoke to staff at ANJEC about this. She recommended that since the grant documents are complete to send them to ANJEC as soon as possible. John estimates we spent close to the full grant amount of \$1500.

Southern Pine Beetle: John contacted the New Jersey Forest Service. They did some research and informed us that Commercial Township does not have a Southern Pine Beetle problem.

NEW BUSINESS:

Amy reported that we have 70 "friends" on face book. Any new information can be given to her or John for posting. She recommended we try to post our agenda and minutes before our meetings to encourage residents to attend our meetings. She also requested a new photo for the page. John will do this.

Shade Tree Commission Ordinance: Amy questioned if utility companies need to get permission to trim trees along the roads. John said they do not need permission but have to notify the township of their schedule. John restated that the Shade Tree Commission and the Environmental Commission are two separate entities but they may share a common member.

John handed out the Commission's Annual Report. After reviewing, the commission approved it and John will send it to the Township Committee and ANJEC. (Copy is attached to the official minutes).

Ken reported that he and Jim were sworn in for 2016-2019 terms.

Walt Birbeck announced his resignation from the Commission. The Commission thanks him for his service and will begin the search for a replacement.

Goals for 2016:

1. Ban plastic bags. Discussion items: bag tax; grant for canvas bags; corporate sponsors; logo on bags; locally made. John appointed Ken, Pat and Amy to a subcommittee to address this goal.
2. Regional Partnership. Discussion items: talk with neighboring communities; brochure on local activities available; ANJEC grants available to several commissions working together.
3. Monofilament project. Discussion items: locations to include Lake Audrey and the US Silica pond.
4. Bay Day involvement. Discussion items: No Shredder? Location and information to hand out.

U.S. Silica Application: Ken reported this application is for an extension of existing work and we, as a commission, can only address land use issues. Other concerns can be addressed to LUB during public hearing. John said the Good Neighbor Policy which is part of the application seems to address residents concerns. He will write a memo to the LUB with our comments. (See attachment)

CORRESPONDANCE: None

Public Comment: Motion by Ken seconded by Pat to open the public portion of the meeting. Motion approved. Tiara Campbell, NJ Watershed Ambassador thanked the commission for our assistance with the storm drain labeling. She asked if we would be interested in hosting a rain barrel or rain garden workshop in the spring. She would supply barrels and we would supply spouts, etc. We could display a completed barrel at Bay Day and have a signup sheet for those who would like to build their own barrel. John thanked her and said we would discuss this at a later meeting. John also reported that he gave the Public Works dept. the extra decals and labels. Pat made motion to close the public portion seconded by Ken. Motion approved.

Motion by Ken seconded by Pat to adjourn. Motion approved at 8:27pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Julie Gandy, Secretary

Minutes of December 8, 2015 were approved on January 12, 2016.

cc: Twp. Committee
CTEC members