

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF

MARCH 14, 2017

Green Team Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Chairman Nardone. He announced that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Present: Pat Smith, Julie Gandy, Ken McGill, Jim D'Ambrosio, Dale Schweitzer, John Nardone, and Committeeman Mike Vizzard.

Pat reported she and John submitted a grant application to Sustainable Jersey (SJ) for funds to plant milkweed. Should hear in April if we receive grant. If we don't get the grant we can try to purchase milkweed plants from local nurseries. Ken and Dale will help to determine if plants are healthy and not sprayed with harmful pesticides.

She said SJ has a new status called the Gold level starting in June. This level of certification differs from the Bronze and Silver by setting a measurable standard rather than requiring prescriptive actions. It rewards performance and innovation. It also differs from other levels in that it will not be attained in the course of one cycle or application but will be comprised of "Gold Stars" that will be granted one dimension of sustainability at a time. The first dimension to focus on is energy and waste for the entire state on New Jersey.

Comments: Jim reported that Laurel Lake Fire Company recently retrofitted every light in the fire house to LED and went from paying \$1000 per month to \$70. Committeeman Vizzard reported the township committee proposed buying back some land behind Dino's to install solar panels that will provide electricity to manage the freezers at the ballpark and the lights at the state police barracks.

Pat also reported that she was contacted by Lawrence Township, Burlington County, about our plastic bag program. In addition, Maurice River Township is thinking about starting.

The county requested we have our plastic bag tree exhibit at the Eco fair at Wheaton on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Pat will be collecting bags for this. Ken and Pat will be there all day.

John reported we received \$400 toward the purchase of reusable bags from two sand companies, US Silica and Unimin. John thanked Jim for making the calls. It was decided that their names along with the Commissions will be printed on the bags. John will order them from Amsterdam Printing in time for the Eco Fair.

Pat said on March 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a one hour SJ webinar at 1:00pm on Coastal Communities Protection.

Seeing no other Green Team business, John adjourned this portion of the meeting and called the regular meeting to order.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of January 10, 2017. Since several members did not receive them this motion is postponed until the next meeting. Note: there was no meeting in February.

OLD BUSINESS:

ANJEC: Julie reported there will be a course "Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions" on Saturday, April 1 from 9am to 1:30pm at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority in Egg Harbor Township. She will present "Conservation Easements". There is no cost to us since we are on the Workshop Plan. Mike may attend.

Sustainable Jersey: Ken was unable to locate any scouts to help with planting. Jim said he will call Vineland Scouts who help him in the past. Julie will call Pat Moore for contact info on girl scouts.

Julie reported that there is a company, Trex, that will turn 500 plastic bags into a park bench. Motion by Ken seconded by Pat to have Julie investigate.

Master Plan: John asked Committeeman Vizzard if the township was going to update ERI in conjunction with the Master Plan. He did not know but will ask. If they are going to update the ERI the Commission can assist.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANJEC grant ideas: John reported that old records show that a previous commission applied for an ANJEC grant to print recycling brochures. After discussion, it was determined that this brochure is outdated. Ken asked if anyone knew which areas of the township did not recycle. Pat will ask CCIA since they contract to pick it up. Currently it would be more efficient to put information on our website.

Motion by Ken seconded by Pat to open the meeting to the public. Committee Vizzard said that his daughter, Kelsey, recently moved to Austin, Texas and took our idea for the plastic bag program with her. Seeing no one else Ken made a motion to close the public portion seconded by Pat. Motion approved.

John thanked Mike for attending the meeting.

Correspondence: None

Commissioner comments: Ken question what impact the federal decisions would have on the local governing body. Julie replied that in her opinion it would take time for ramifications to filtered down to the local level but it would not hurt to be aware what is going on locally.

Motion by Jim seconded by Dale to adjourn. Motion approved at 8:10pm.

Respectively submitted,

Julie Gandy, Secretary

cc: Twp. Committee  
CTEC members