

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF

December 10, 2019

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

Present: Ken McGill, Pat Smith, Dale Schweitzer, John Nardone, Julie Gandy, Jim D'Ambrosio and Amy Wright via phone. Also, in attendance Mayor Mike Vizzard and Lorraine Shrouds.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of November 12, 2019 by Ken seconded by Pat. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

ANJEC: Julie reported that Greenpeace has filed a case against Target to stop using Single Use Plastic in the stores and giving plastic bags instead of cloth bags.

Sustainable Jersey: John reported we did not complete enough points for the Bronze Level before the deadline and suggested we start earlier to pick a project that suits the township and complete each section of the plan as we progress. Pat reported that PSE&G has 20 \$2,000 and 8 \$10,000 grants. Purposed projects must be filed by February 14, 2020. Several suggestions were made: a boardwalk and or observation platform in the marsh along the river. John will discuss with Mayor Vizzard after the holidays as to suggestions. Also, there are webinars scheduled on Energy outreach campaigns and a guide for municipalities and green teams.

Also, on 12/13/19 from 9:30 to 2:30 the 5th Annual Jersey Waterworks conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick to amplify the importance of addressing NJ water infrastructure.

Cactus Sign for Lake Audrey: Dale had photos showing both white and yellow flowers. John suggested waiting until they bloom at the end of May to see which type of flower are there. We can use two signs: east side of Lake Audrey; and one near the Buckshutem road if needed.

New Member: John asked Mayor Vizzard to put notice on townships website that we need an additional member.

NEW BUSINESS:

Projects for the upcoming year

Several ideas were discussed: a half day conference on well & septic maintenance; residential energy conservation; community gardens with natural plantings could use a 20 x 20 space for 5 x 5 ft plots with small walkways in between and bare spot for beneficial insects, could plant flowers, natural grasses, shrubs and trees and have a stone area as habitat for cactus. Master

Gardeners could be contacted as well as county 4-H. Master Gardeners did the natural plantings at Bayshore Center at Bivalve according to Lorraine.

Ken will contact the company that did the well and septic conference we attended recently to determine if and when they could help and if we could use the Mauricetown Fire Hall.

Jim volunteered to ask Atlantic City Electric if they have a program and speakers re conserving electricity and when they would be available.

Dale will check with Master Gardeners re community gardens and research if there is appropriate land available.

Ken mentioned that there will be seeds from the Salem Oak available to each municipality. Do we know where it can be planted?

John will write an article for ANJEC NEWS about our recycling plastic bags into park benches.

Motion by Ken seconded by Pat to open the meeting to the public. Motion approved.

Mayor Vizzard said he will ask about the Salem seeds and suggested a community garden could be located between the Senior Center and the Veterans Park.

Hearing no further comments, a motion by Ken seconded by Pat to close the public. Motion approved.

Jim thanked everyone for understanding and consideration of his absence the previous months.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Ken mentioned that British Air has a pilot program to use eatable coffee cups on specific flights. They produce 77 tons of waste per year. He will follow the story. He also mentioned that Dollar General is using reusable plastic bags.

John reminded everyone that officers will be elected at the January 14th meeting.

Motion by Ken seconded by Dale to adjourn. Motion approved at 8:00pm.

Respectively submitted,

Julie Gandy, Secretary

cc: Twp. Committee
CTEC members