

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF

MAY 11, 2021

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

Present: Pat Smith, Peter Manzelmann, John Nardone, Lorraine Shourds, Julie Gandy. Absent Dale Schweitzer, Jim D'Ambrosio,

Reorganization

Ms. Gandy opened the nominations for Chair. Motion by Pat seconded by Lorraine to nominate John Nardone. Nominations closed. Unanimous approval.

Chairman Nardone opened the nominations for Vice Chair. Motion by Julie seconded by Lorraine to nominate Pat Smith. Nominations closed. Unanimous approval.

Chairman Nardone opened the nominations for Secretary. Motion by Lorraine seconded by Pat to nominate Julie Gandy. Nominations closed. Unanimous approval.

Chairman Nardone asked for consensus to have the meetings of the Commission continue on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Agreed. He will request the Clerk's office to post in the official newspaper.

Minutes of November 10, 2020

Motion by Pat seconded by Lorraine to approve. Motion approved. Peter abstained.

ANJEC: Julie reported highlights on the webinar held on January 27, 2021 on *Basic Fundamentals for Environmental Commissions*.

When Commissions pay their annual dues of \$375 they are able to attend all workshops, seminars and webinars, for free. All meetings with a quorum must be advertised and have a public portion to allow members of the public to address concerns.

Climate Change is new Element of the Master Plan that each municipality must adopt.

Storm water updates were due for State approval on March 23, 2021

Plastics: The Plastic Pollution Reduction Act was signed into law in November 2020. There is 18 months until the law is fully implemented.

8 million tons of plastic waste is generated annually

US is the largest contributor

New law addresses single use plastic and polystyrene foam food service products and straws upon request.

Penalties – first offense=warning. Second offense=\$1,000 fine. Third offense=\$5,000 fine. 30% of the fines go back to the municipalities.

NJ Website is coming soon that explains changes. By May 2021 NJDEP will release information

Single use plastic (SUP) is not safe for the environment. 90% of SUP uses fracking waste in their manufacture

DO NOW:

Highlight businesses that are using reusable containers, bags

Educate and encourage residents to bring reusable bags and to say no to plastic utensils given with take-out orders...NOTE the commission has cloth bags to hand out

Sustainable Jersey: Pat received requirements to be eligible for Bronze designation. Must be renewed every 3 years. (See attached).

Atlantic City Electric has a Sustainable Communities Grant Program administered by Sustainable Jersey and will provide \$75,000 in grants to fund municipal environment stewardship and resiliency projects in its service area. Applications must be submitted by June 30, 2021. There will be an informational webinar on Thursday, May 13 from 1:00 to 2:00pm.

Well Seminar: Lorraine will contact InTouch Loomcharoen, Water Compliance Specialist with RCAP (Resources for Community and People) Solutions, Inc to see if we can have the program in July. Pat has been in contact with a Bridgeton Environmental Commissioner who works with the Department of Health. They have funds available from CDC for well water testing that must be used by August, 2021. Pat will follow up with her for more information.

NEW BUSINESS:

State Planning Office Project. John handed out packets of information with information from the state to help in evaluating and addressing local climate change impacts through the State Planning Commission's Plan Endorsement process.

Peter reported that the 6 blue bird boxes installed at the Mary Ella Park has blue birds also chickadees and tree swallows. He will contact Drew and Nora Gerberaux about the purple martin gourds.

Open to the public: No one present

Correspondence: None

Motion by Lorraine seconded by Peter to adjourn. Motion approved at 8:05pm.

Respectively submitted,

Julie Gandy, Secretary

cc: Twp. Committee
CTEC members