

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF April 12, 2022

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

Present: John Nardone, Pat Smith, Dale Schweitzer, Peter Manzelmann. Also in attendance: Mayor Mike Vizzard. Absent: Julie Gandy, Lorraine Shourds

Minutes of March 8, 2022: Motion by Peter seconded by Dale to approve. Motion passed.

**ANJEC:** There will be a Virtual Earth Day celebration on April 22 from 11am to 2pm. We received a notice: Thank You for Protecting New Jersey's Plastic Pollution Reduction Act.

**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY:** No Report

**BLUEBIRD BOXES:** Peter reported blue bird males have not arrived yet. Chickadees and some bluebirds are in the Mary Ella Park

**MUNICIPAL PLAN ENDORSEMENT:** John reported the township committee met with Megan Wren and members of the community for ideas of where we want our community to be in the future. This is just a preliminary meeting. More to come. A lot was learned about our township.

**NEW BUSINESS:** John reported we purchased 300 bags from Sebly, LLC for \$585.00. The Commission paid \$185 from our budget. The balance was donated.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** John reported on a meeting he attended with Karla Rossini, Executive Director, CU Maurice River and Mayor Vizzard, Committeeman Joe Klaudi. commission members also in attendance: Peter, Julie, and Dale to discuss reducing the amount of phragmites growing along the Manumuskin river. CU will have to use a herbicide to reduce the growth. Dale will be point person to attend special meetings. Peter reported the upper Manumuskin has many endangered species. Frogs are moving into that area. Geese are pulling up rice causing serious degradation to the area. Karla requested a letter of endorsement from the Township Committee supporting the program.

**PLASTIC BAGS:** John reported TREX wants to expand the plastic local collections. They would like local communities to buy balers. They would provide financing for the balers. Mayor Vizzard will contact CCIA to see if all 4 municipalities could be handled through them rather than each community buying their own baler.

**ANJEC GRANT:** Peter reported he wrote the application and submitted it for the Open Space grant to restore monitoring of the purple martins and blue birds. It will be used as an educational project.

**PUBLIC PORTION:** Motion by Dale to open the public portion seconded by Peter. Motion passed. A man and his wife (no names were given) asked if the Tree Ordinance permitted cutting trees down. John explained the ordinance and recommended they go to the township office to get a copy of the

ordinance. They own a property where many trees have already been cut. What can they do? Mayor Vizzard said they, as owners, would have to file a complaint in order for it to be handled legally. He advised them to come to the next township meeting and they will be advised before signing a complaint.

Where can plastic bags be turned in now that other places are no longer taking them? Places mentioned were the post offices and Lalli's Liquor store

Dale made a motion to close the public portion seconded by Peter. Motion passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

Motion by Dale seconded by Peter to adjourn at 7:45pm

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Smith".

Pat Smith, for Julie Gandy Recording Secretary

cc: Twp. Committee  
CTEC members