

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022

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

Secretary Gandy called for nominations for Chairman. Motion by Pat seconded by Peter to nominate John Nardone. Seeing no other nominations, the nominations were closed and motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Nardone thanked everyone. He called for nominations for Vice Chair. Motion by Pat seconded by Dale to nominate Peter. Seeing no other nominations, the nominations were closed and motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Nardone called for nominations for secretary. Motion by Dale seconded by Pat to nominate Julie. Seeing no other nominations, the nominations were closed and motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Nardone asked for motion to approve the meeting calendar of the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm and to be send to the Township Clerk to publish. Motion by Julie seconded by Peter. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of November 9, 2021: Motion by Dale seconded by Pat to approve. Motion passed.

**ANJEC:** Julie reminded the commission that the Plastic Pollution Reduction Law takes effect May 4, 2022. Stores larger than 2500 sq ft. are prohibited from providing single use plastic bags and paper bags. Only re-usable, washable bags with sewn handles can be used. This includes Walmart and Target. Pharmacies and libraries are exempt. Some additional exceptions are plastic bags for produce, medicine and fresh cut deli products. Department stores cannot provide plastic bags (although they can provide paper bags) The law includes food pantries but an exemption is being reviewed. ANJEC is working to provide reusable bags to pantries. More information can be found at [www.singleuseplastics@dep.nj.gov](mailto:www.singleuseplastics@dep.nj.gov)

Also, the straw provision of the Plastic Pollution Reduction Law is in effect. Establishments are not to provide plastic straws unless requested. Department of Health is the enforcement agency. First offense is a warning; second offence is a fine up to \$1,000. And the third offence is a fine up to \$5,000.

Peter recommended we place signs in the 2 post offices outlining the law and Mayor Vizzard will ask the recycling company if they would not pick up trash if it contains recyclables.

**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY:** Pat reported Brandon Rothrock, a researcher on the Sustainable Jersey staff contacted her to let us know he is available by phone this evening to explain how he can assist with funding and technical assistance. Commercial Township is eligible for \$25,000 because we are an "overburdened" community. John called him at this time. Mr. Rothrock said funding is available through the Community Energy Grant under the Board of Public Utilities which is an 80-20 split (20% being the township's share). The Township Committee would need to 1. pass a resolution. He will provide a

sample. 2. complete a template outlining seven (7) main energy strategies and 3. submit a preliminary budget and how we will allocate the funding i.e. pay municipal staff or hire a consultant that would work on the plan. He is available to help implement the plan. The deadline for submission of the plan is March 18<sup>th</sup>.

John thanked him for the information and that he will discuss this with the commission and Township committee.

**BLUEBIRD BOXES:** Peter reported that predator guards for the purple martin gourds were contributed by US Silica.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Chairman Nardone reported he received a call from a resident asking if we would consider installing a weather station with public access in the township that would monitor rainfall, wind.

Pat will call the schools to see if Peter and Dale could present information on environmental issues to students. They can submit a list of topics for presentations.

John gave the commissioners an outline for the Regional Visioning Workshop which will take place in region 4: Cumberland and Warren counties between Mid-February to the end of March. (See attached) He will let the commission and township committee know when it is scheduled.

**PUBLIC PORTION:** Motion by Dale to open the public portion seconded by Pat Motion passed. Mayor Vizzard reported the Committee is preparing a plan to provide safe routes to schools from Mauricetown to ball fields to school crossings.

He also reported that our food pantry serves 300 people and not using plastic bags may be an issue.

John said he will contact Clean Communities and ask about funding for reusable bags.

Susan Peek Corson asked if we considered replacing street lights with LEDs. Mayor Vizzard replied this is an ongoing program.

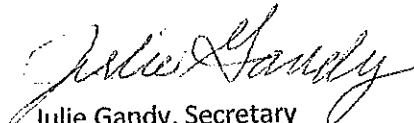
Pat made a motion to close the public portion seconded by Julie. Motion passed.

Peter asked if we need to approve the annual report prepared by John. Motion by Peter seconded by Julie to approve the annual report. Motion approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** John asked for a motion to approve the ANJEC dues. Motion by Dale seconded by Peter. Motion passed.

Motion by Pat seconded by Dale to adjourn at 8:00pm

Respectively submitted,

  
Julie Gandy, Secretary

cc: Twp. Committee  
CTEC members