COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF January 10, 2022

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

Present: Peter Manzelmann, Pat Smith, Lorraine Shourds, Dustin Piccolo, John Dayton, and Katie Dayton Absent: Dale Schweitzer. Also in attendance: Committeeman Joe Klaudi and Mayor Mike Vizzard.

Minutes of November 8, 2022: Correction to Katie Dayton's name needed. Motion by Pat seconded by John to approve. Motion passed.

The meeting began with a call for nominations for open positions

Chair- A nomination for Peter made Lorraine and seconded by John- all agree, motion passed

Vice chair- A nomination for Dustin made by John and seconded by Lorainne- all agree, motion passed

Secretary- A nomination for Katie made by John and seconded by Dustin- all agree, motion passed

**ANJEC report**: Peter will renew the membership with Heather. John volunteers to be the new ANJEC contact.

**Sustainable Jersey**: overview of what it is- 3 year cycles to be established as a Sustainable Jersey community. Pat provided copy of flyer that was posted in post offices to recruit members of the community for the green team. As of now the commission is the green team. Pat also provided a brief hand out about what sustainable Jersey is and why it is important. The goal of the program is to make us be as green as possible, save money and make our community as sustainable as possible. There are grants and projects provided by sustainable jersey and will provide advice and resources in order to complete various projects.

Last certification was done in 2021, so it will need to be renewed in 2024. Currently a bronze member and Pat provided a list of projects completed in order to get the certification. The commission can begin working on projects now that can count towards points for certification. Can find all of the information online on sustainable jersey. Projects have to be on going, but some of the projects can be used each year, such as creating a green team and environmental commission. The members of the commission will go home with copies of the list of projects and will discuss potential project ideas at the next meeting.

**Bluebird/Purple Martin report**: Peter winterized bluebird boxes and 2 new winches were purchased for the purple martin gourds. Rack was replaced at riverside park after being previously removed. Peter is also doing a CU program at the Mary Ella Morie Park with Allen Jackson regarding what they are doing as it relates to the bluebirds and purple martins on June 17th. Time TBD

**Teracycle**: John explored the website and it just involves signing up with name and organization in order to begin the project. John will be responsible for shipping boxes back once they are full and ready to be sent back. John will also take on a list of what can be collected to put on the boxes. Can put a blurb in the reminder to get the word out to the community. Also discussed working with the schools to plan a way to get an incentive out for schools to participate. Discussed some options of places to put boxes in order to collect the items, some ideas were schools, post office, Lalli's, fire houses. John will follow up with more information at the next meeting.

**New business**:

**annual report**- there were not many projects completed this year so the annual report was not completed. For the upcoming year a copy will go to mayor, ANJEC, and the township committee. Peter will commit to complete it next year,

ANJEC membership contact list was updated and Peter will get it sent to ANJEC.

eagle fest: coming up on Saturday Feb. 4th at the Mauricetown firehouse. There are a lot of different events included speakers, live birds, field trips to where the eagles are. Jody Carrara from the south jersey land water trust is willing to help to set everyone up, but the environmental commission was requested to help run the registration table. Jody will also be there throughout the day to help or catch people coming in after 12pm. Responsibilities include taking names, email addresses, check off if preregistered and then collect the funds and hand out buttons. Volunteer shifts are from 8-10 Dustin and Lorraine and 10-12: Pat and one or both of the Dayton's.

Discussion of a contact made, Chris, head of recycling in Millville. He is trying to figure out where to send single use plastics but is willing to store in Millville if needed. He is also willing to come discuss ideas and recycling in Millville. Peter will continue to talk with him to determine how the Environmental Commission can be

Lucia Osborne Deleware Bayshore Program Director- case studies of community designs. Peter will follow up with Lucia and will report back about what he finds out in upcoming meeting.

FB page- John Nardone previously managed the page. He usually goes through ANJEC magazine and posts things of interest to the residents of commercial township. Also repost newspaper articles or lists of environmental tips and tricks. Katie will take over the management of the page.

Joe Klaudi Contacted NJ state forester- all of the Salem oak seedlings were currently accounted for, but will try to continue to follow up to see if they were able to stretch it out to give us a couple. Each township in NJ was supposed to get one but commercial township has not. Joe planted a Salem oak acorn he found at the site and it began sprouting so there are currently two seedlings growing. Joe will continue to monitor the growth and will report to the commission at upcoming meetings, as well as providing status updates to be shared on the FB page.

Pat contacted county extension and dept of agriculture as she recently encountered a spotted lantern fly. No one was able to provide an answer about how problematic it was in the area but did confirm that the area is not currently on a quarantine list. It was discussed to make posters and fb posts to show how bad these can be and what can be done so that the community can be educated and can help stem any further infestation.

**open to public:**

Mike Vizzard- was approved to install a walking path around Haleyville ballfield, to school and then to Mauriceville. The first phase will be around the ballfield. There will be plans for public to view layout before it is approved in, but as of now it is still in the planning stages

The zoning officer needs a vehicle- Mike shared they are looking to purchase and electric vehicle and get charging station installed, one for township use and one for public use that will charge a fee that will help pay for the station. A recent ordinance was passed that any parking lot with more than 7 parking spaces must include a charging station to help encourage more people to purchase electric vehicles.

A question was asked regarding the playground in Laurel Lake- currently no location has been agreed upon, but it is still being worked on.

John Nardone has a lot of faith in the new membership and is encouraged with how they are leaving the commission. The commission also recognized the contribution of Julia and John in laying a good foundation for the commission to run on.

**Correspondence**: a letter was received regarding the need to replace a malfunctioning septic system at 1610 North Avenue, Block 201, Lot 5 Commercial Township.

Motion to adjourn by Katie at 8:00pm seconded by Dustin.

Respectively submitted,

Katie Dayton, Recording Secretary

cc: Twp. Committee