COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF February 7, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Chairperson Peter Manzelmann. He 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, Katie Dayton, and Dale Schweitzer.

Minutes of Jan, 10, 2022: Correction to Allen Jackson and Mary Ella Morie Community Park names’ needed. Motion by Pat seconded by Dale to approve. Motion passed.

Role of environmental commission read by Peter. Main points are to educate and advise the Township on various environmental problems and concerns.

**ANJEC report**: John presented his beginning research into the ANJEC website and newsletter. There is an ANJEC YouTube channel so that you can review presentations that have been previously held. Upcoming presentations include The Fundamentals of 3/21, 22nd and 23rd. There are multiple presentations over Zoom at multiple times throughout the day. They will also have an in person session on 4/1 at the Ft. Monmouth recreation center. There is a presentation on completing a rain garden 2/22 at 12 or 7pm, presented by Rutgers. John has signed up to attend. The group discussed that it is possible to use a rain garden as a sustainable jersey project. CU Maurice River competed multiple rain garden projects which could be a resource to help if the Green Team would be able to use to establish a Rain Garden within the Township. Peter submitted the updated registration payment of $400 to renew our membership and wanted to ensure that everyone is receiving the newsletter as well.

**Sustainable Jersey**: John provided an update of the current state of the Sustainable Jersey Bronze status points. There needs to be new resolution to have a green team, and Dustin stated that Mayor Vizzard recertified the green team at the land use meeting. There needs to be an official resolution to re-establish a green team. Katie will type up the resolution and submit it to township to get the resolution passed if that is needed. John will contact Heather to determine what is needed to submit the information to Sustainable Jersey to ensure those points are counted. The group will look at the website over the next month so we can take a closer look at the categories and John agrees to be the point person to make sure we are on track with a list of what points we have, what we can renew and how we can obtain new points. Pat provided John with the previous documentation given to sustainable Jersey to assist his research. There was also discussion about submitting the farmer’s market and food pantries to help get points.

Motion to elect John as the point person for Sustainable Jersey made by Peter, seconded by Dustin. Motion passed.

**Bluebird/Purple Martin report**: nothing to report. Peter will send out the website for the tracking of the Martins to monitor the migration. Peter’s talk about the Bluebirds and Purple Martins will be at Mary Ella Morie Community Park on 6/17 at 9am.

**Eaglefest summary**: the coverage of the event needed to be longer than the 4 hours we originally thought but the team was able to stay and manage the registration table for the duration of the event.

**Teracycle**: We are officially registered with teracycle and John created a flyer to put on the boxes once they get created and placed throughout the community. Peter recommended putting a notification in the Reminder in order to advertise the project. Katie will also post information on Facebook. Some places to get started with boxes include the Post Offices. Other recommended locations include local dentists, Katie will take charge of calling dental offices to see if anyone would be willing to be a collection site. Peter will talk with the local schools to see if they can be collection sites. Two senior centers in Haleyville and Laurel Lake. Pat will contact the senior centers. Dustin and Lorraine will talk to the churches to see if they can be drop off locations as well. John will make boxes and will place them once they get approval.

**Facebook: Currently 582 followers and** post reach has gone up 78%. Some recent posts include Eaglefest information, Spotted Lantern Fly information, winter garden tips and information about the blue comet. Also update the contact information and profile picture.

**Land use:** Dustin shared that Land Use board completed an application for the DEP freshwater wetland/Greenland permit for a septic system that was approved. There was a letter from the inspector’s office from the sand plant regarding their compliance with the environmental requirements. Some findings include the Cyprus trees on Noble street are dying, which is required for their permit. The Land Use board acknowledged it was received and then Dustin was told to bring it to the Commission and Stephanie to determine what the next steps should be. Dustin will work on talking with the plant to see what environmental improvements can be made for the town and ensure the codes are being followed.

**New business**:

**Spotted lantern fly education idea:** Marianne will contact Pat to create posters to hang around the township to help increase awareness about Spotted Lantern Flies in order to help raise awareness about the risks they pose to the community. Also discussed the possibility of having a poster contest in the schools to help raise awareness. Peter will also talk to the schools to see if there is a way to work with them on the project.

**Open to the public:** no public in attendance.

Katie asked about follow-up with Lucia Osborne from the Littoral Society regarding the environmental blueprint meeting and the community planning case study meetings. Peter reached out but has not heard back yet. Katie will also reach out to get more information.

Correspondence: Peter contacted Christopher Finch re: plastics problem. Contacted Trex to determine if Millville will be able to be a collection point for single use plastics. They would have to collect and store, which at this point they are not able to store.

Letter regarding the instillation of a septic system was also received.

Motion to adjourn at 8:15pm by Katie, seconded by Dustin. Motion Passed

Respectively submitted,

Katie Dayton, Recording Secretary

cc: Twp. Committee