COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF March 14, 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. Also in attendance Mike Vizzard, Mayor of Commercial Township; Joe Klaudi committee man

Minutes of Jan. 10, 2022: Correction to TerraCycle and Mary-Anne. Motion by Lorainne seconded by John to approve. Motion passed.

Sustainable Jersey/Green team update- Certification through sustainable Jersey as a green team has expired, Renewal of the resolution to renew the green team will be completed at the upcoming township meeting. A majority of the expired Sustainable Jersey activities were things that came from the township as resolutions. John will work with Heather to work to get they expired township activities updated. The project relating to the updated lighting through the township has expired but could be submitted again if there was an update available to what cost savings the changed lights have provided the county. Katie discussed an idea about setting up tables at various environmental fairs for TerraCycle to help earn projects. The resolution for the green team is needed in order to be able to complete any of the expired activities. John will email out the previous Environmental Commission report. The Facebook page, the reminder and the town website would all be beneficial for helping to document projects for Sustainable Jersey.

ANJEC: Lorainne will take over reporting back on ANJEC items in order to help John focus on the sustainable Jersey things. Pat will help as well. John also presented a possible grant that ANJEC is providing for environmental commissions. Discussion about what the commission could do to apply for the grant or if the commission thought it would be possible to complete the application by the deadline. There was a discussion of co-sponsoring the new township walking trail and having the commission plant native plants along the walk to help educate the community on plants they could plant in the community to help with pollinators. Peter had applied for this grant in the past, but unfortunately was not approved.

Purple Martins: they have been seen in cape may, so they are on their way. Also putting up a t14 house on a local property to provide additional nesting spots and the gourd houses will be put up as well.

Terracycle: There will be a blurb and a picture going into the reminder. There is a box at the Mauricetown Post office as well. Some other places suggested were the port Norris post office, Haleyville Senior Center, the Library and laurel lake family success center, and the Bayshore center. The concern was discussed about the need to sort out the items and the sanitation of this process, but TerraCycle will take care of sorting the items.

Facebook: There was not much to report, the Spotted Lantern Fly information has been posted on Facebook, as well as information about composting. If anyone would like information shared, please send it to Katie so she can share more information. Lorraine also suggested that other members of the commission should share the posts so they can be shared.

Spotted Lantern Fly: Dale and Pat provided the commission with a handout with information and background on the spotted lantern flies. The educational information that was created by Pat and Mary-Anne were distributed through out the township. It is not very common in Cumberland County at this time but it is likely going to increase soon.

Land use commission: The commission approved the renewal of the mining at the Dividing Creek plant. A local resident also shared about the sand plant and called for the inspector to go out to determine if they are following the requirements/

New business

US silica sand plant: Multiple members of the community have approached Peter to voice concerns about the plant. One concern was the sand plant was operating over night with no one present, also noticed sand and silica on cars. Another citizen called the inspector, and someone was observed testing the air quality. Mike stated that the DEP is constantly monitoring the plant and ensuring they are following recommendations in order to renew the licensing. Township will send a letter out to the plant addressing concerns raised by a local citizen and will hopefully have those improved.

CU Maurice river is asking for a grant for the comprehensive river plan completed in 2001. They are asking if the Environmental commission will support the CU’s efforts for address the phragmites problem and concern about the health of the Maurice River. The proposal is to launch a river round table in order to address some of the concerns raised about the use of the river.

Commercial Township is designated as a food desert and there is a possible grant that can be applied for to help address these concerns, such as a community garden or similar projects.

Mayor Mike Vizzard: Has been involved with the climate change and related hazard vulnerability assessment with the DEP and State of New Jersey. They recommend the Green team should be involved with the committee they are trying to established. The Commission agreed to be a part of the Committee. There is also an electric sign out in front of township hall which would be available to use for advertising commission activities.

There was a letter received regarding the replacement of a failed septic system at a property in the community, 7801 Whitter Dr.

Salem oak is doing well, there are about 8 seedlings growing now, and there is a possibility we could get a few additional seedlings from the state.

Meeting motioned to adjorn at 8:15 by Pat seconded by Dustin.

Respectively submitted,

Katie Dayton, Recording Secretary

cc: Twp. Committee