COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF April 11, 2023

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, John Dayton, Katie Dayton, and Dale Schweitzer. Absent: Lorraine Shourds, Dustin Piccolo

Minutes of March 14, 2022: Correction to Joe Klaudi title and Mary-Ann’s spelling of her name. Motion by John seconded by Pat to approve. Motion passed.

ANJEC- Lorraine is not present but Pat was able to share that the plastic ban has decreased plastic trash along the beaches by 37% and 39% less straws and foam containers. There is another rain garden zoom on Apr. 19th. On March 24th there was a spill of toxic materials in the deleware river. See ANJEC newsletter for more information. ANJEC magazine pushing open space and there are grants open for stewardship ideas and discussed various projects around the state that have been completed. There was also a historic Salem oak was planted in Summerville. There was also discussion about climate change and climate watch. There are concerns that wind projects are causing an issue with whales and other species, but it appears that there are also issues with increase in whale population and shipping.

Sustainable Jersey/Green Team- John resubmitted the paperwork to reestablish our green team status and John reached out to Sustainable Jersey. The submissions are reviewed quarterly so we are waiting for update. John Nardone had submitted the updated lights at one point and it was rejected, but Heather is looking to determine how much money has been saved to re-submit the project to get those additional points. There are two items that are waiting for approval from the township which will be reviewed at their next meeting and hopefully can be submitted for the June review. Annual report is also expired and so the report will need to be updated to be resubmitted in order for the points to be counted again. Some suggestions would be a final total for the bag project as well as projected projects for the upcoming year with the revised membership. Peter will look through the previous reports and will then work with Katie to complete an updated report by the next meeting. There also needs to be an additional green team group established to help with some of these projects. A call for members will be posted on facebook

Terracycle- a box has been dropped off at Forrest Lakes and a presentation will be done on 4/12 at the Haleyville Senior center to help explain the process so we can generate some more donations. There was also a discussion about getting a post in the Reminder and on the electric sign. There will also be a post on Facebook in order to help generate donations and get the word out. Pat will collect from the Library, Port Norris post off and Bayshore, Peter will collect from the Mauricetown post office, and the senior/family center.

Purple martins: they have arrived in town and there are a male and female bluebird working the new box that had been put up in the . CU project in June at the Mary Ella Morie Mauricetown Community Park still scheduled to take place.

Facebook- no update

Land use- no update

US Silica- Community members have called the DEP warn number and placed an anonymous message regarding the concerns, as well as calling the main office of the plant to voice their concerns as well. There have been previous positive things completed in the past, but there have been an increase in recent concerns and community members are encouraged to speak up and call the DEP in order report concerns.

Open to public: none

Correspondence: none

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 motion by John, Seconded by Katie.