COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF May 9, 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, Dustin Piccolo, Katie Dayton, and Dale Schweitzer. Absent: Lorraine Shourds and John Dayton. Also in attendance Mike Vizzard, Mayor of Commercial Township; Joe Klaudi committee member

Minutes of April 11, 2023: Correction to Reminder title. Motion to approve by Pat seconded by Dustin. Motion passed.

ANJEC: There was an article in the newsletter regarding balloons and the impact of balloon releases on the environment. Pat called ANJEC regarding the grant and if there was a possibility to apply for the grant still this year for the nature trail/gardens project considered in coordination with the township’s walking trail from. They stated that it was closed but that we could apply next year if the project was still going on. Mike confirmed that there were multiple phases to the trail so it was likely to still be going on. Katie also brought up the upcoming webinars on climate change that ANJEC is holding on May 10th, May 31st and June 20th.

Sustainable Jersey: John is continuing to identify actions that can be easily remedied through a vote from the township. There is a new round of approvals of new and updated submissions in June. More information will be provided at the next meeting as to our current Bronze status tasks.

Terracycle: there are 7 sites with boxes. Peter spoke at the Haleyville senior center and has started collecting. There was a shipment of 5lbs of materials have been sent out so far. The question about approaching the schools and it was noted that Jean Smith is returning as the superintendent. Peter will reach out to the schools to see if we can partner with them for the upcoming school year. There was also an article written to be submitted into the Reminder that was submitted but it was not printed as of the time of this meeting.

Bluebirds: 3 boxes currently have active nests; 2 at sand plant and 1 at a local residence with babies and will be banded this weekend. 5 baby bluebirds were hatched at Mike Vizzards house and will be banded as well. There are some other boxes that have not been as successful. There will be a public program on June 17th 9am with Allen Jackson and Peter through the CU at the Mary Ella Morie Community Park.

US silica response: Land use board received a response from the plant regarding the resident concerns. See attached. The land use board renews the use of the space every 5 years and an environmental impact report is filed as a part of the recertification. It is possible to see the reports and can be requested from Heather from the township. There was the discussion of having a public meeting to discuss the community concerns with the plant to address the concerns and find out what the plant is doing to address the concerns. The clerk will send a letter to the plant to attend the June Township meeting on June 15th. Katie will make signs for the post office and the township hall, and will advertise on Facebook.

FB: There has been a lot of positive response to recent posts, including information regarding the Polyphemous silk moths, and the Terracycle post. Katie will continue to post information at it becomes available and track engagement with the page.

New business:

Concerns were raised regarding the agricultural development on Buckshutem. They had to get the correct permits to do the work they are doing and they would had to go to the land use committee in order to do the work. Dustin will ask about how the permitting occurred and what the future plans for the site. There are concerns regarding what they are doing on the land and with any of the trees that are being removed from the area.

Osprey idea: fundraising ideas… fb fundraising, sustainable jersey, naming competition. Mike will speak with clint about having the sign installed, and what would need to be raised in order to account for instillation.

Correspondence: none

Peter did type up the 2022 summary for review. Please review by the next meeting for any feedback.

Motion to adjourn at 7:40 made by Katie seconded by Dustin. Motion passed