COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF June 13, 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, John Dayton, Lorraine Shourds, Dustin Piccolo, and Dale Schweitzer. Absent: Pat Smith and Katie Dayton.

Minutes of May 9, 2023: Corrections needed to some spelling errors. motion to approve by John, seconded by Dustin. The team agreed to receive the future minutes via email in order to prevent unnecessary printing.

Anjec: Nothing new to report at this time.

Sustainable Jersey: Because of the submission schedule they extended everyone a full year to get the points and certifications done, so we will maintain our bronze status for one more year. There were a couple submissions made, but we need to wait to hear if they were accepted and should hear by the end of June. John also provided an update on the osprey sign and possible funding available. Sustainable Jersey directed John to a grant in place with Atlantic City Electric to try and get the funds to get the sign installed. To meet the criteria of the application a discussion of having some sort of ribbon cutting event. Everyone agreed to have their name included on the application for the grant. This activity can also be used to help get points for the Sustainable Jersey status.

Terracycle: We need a better system for collecting the items from the various boxes. John offered to collect from the various locations. The website has been updated and we have the first official 5lbs noted on our account. There was a notice placed in the reminder. Peter would also reach out to the superintendent of the schools to see if there is a way to partner with them as well. The church also stated that it would be fine to have a box placed there.

Bluebird/purple martins: Peter has a talk coming up on Saturday June at 10am to talk about bluebird and purple martin conservation. There are eggs in the nest and may be hatching for the talk. They will also lower the gourds to do an inspection and allow people to observe the baby martins.

Facebook: There has been a lot of engagement with the posts that have been made, but there are no major updates at this time.

Land use board: Joe Klaudi was merging 2 pieces of property that were approved, but there were no major updates at this time. There were also concerns about the Barber planting being done and forest being removed on that area. Dustin stated that it was not a land use board issue, but that they would have had to gotten permits from the state. It was suggested that a shade tree commission should be formed to monitor the trees on various properties in order to ensure protected trees or older trees are not removed. Dustin will look into forming a shade tree commission.

Peter typed up and submitted the 2022 report.

New business

Peter received a call from Justo, manager of the silica plant. Offered to have a private tour, but Peter reiterated that the community would like to hear from the plant directly, and Heather confirmed that someone from the plan will attend the July 20th township meeting.

Resiliency committee: Peter, Dale and Pat attended a meeting about the flood map completed and how Commercial Township can be more resilient as we move further into climate change. Maurice River Township and Commercial Township will be the focus through Rutgers to help ensure long term resiliency. The county needs to repair what is damaged in order to help the flooding that occurs on Front St.

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