COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF July 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, John Dayton, Katie Dayton, Dustin Piccolo, and Dale Schweitzer. Absent: Pat Smith and Lorraine Shourds. Also present, Joe Klaudi

Minutes of June 13, 2023: no corrections needed motion to approve by Peter, seconded by Dustin. The team agreed to receive the future minutes via email in order to prevent unnecessary printing.

ANJEC: The following information was received via email from Lorraine and read into the record “July 18th 7:00 p.m. zoom meeting which you must register for to participate. it is a virtual round table for environmental commissions tapping into local resources and local community group activities

New Jersey packing reduction act is on the table it will add more responsibility to businesses instead of the consumer for packing material to be recycled, better stewardship of what they use.

Commercial township can adopt and send a resolution that we support this Act. (Copy as pic attached) I can forward the information to everyone so they can look at it and maybe we can get Mayor to sign off on that

Recycled content law effective 2024 common products such as hard plastics trash liners bags will have to have an increased percentage made of recycled content

Info in case everyone didn't know it's "plastic free July" if you go to the site [www.plasticfreejuly.org](http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/) it has great ideas of how people can personally reduce single-use plastic use in their homes”

Sustainable Jersey: John has been following up with updates on certifications. The most recent one was the approval of the whole green team organization, there was some feedback regarding how similar the two submissions were, but the submission was approved. The next submission for approval will be the annual report and should occur in July. The Osprey sign grant application has been submitted and a decision on grant will be after the end of July. Everything has been approved by the township and all of the documentation has been submitted. The grant is for $5,000. The stand will be about $2,500. The sign will need to be customized to include Atlantic city electric and sustainable jersey as a requirement of the grant. The group will discuss the plan for the remainder of the funds if the application is approved such as a ribbon cutting event and promotional materials. There will need to be customization of the sign and some work needed after the project is completed for the grant.

Terracyle: John is getting ready to ship out our next box. It has been a slow collection, but hopefully we can build more momentum as the word gets out and if we can begin to partner with the schools. Katie will ask if there can be a table for the Environmental Commission at Riverfest.

Blue birds and purple martins: All done their second brood, hoping there will be a third nesting. There was a public talk on June 17th with Peter and Allan about the conservation efforts and looked inside the racks. There were about 15-20 people in attendance.

Facebook: Not a lot to report. There was a post made about the updated Township meeting with US Silica and information was shared about Plastic free July, but no other updates. There was a community member who reached out about some trash dumping in the area and the information was passed on to the township to be looked at further.

Land use: quiet, quick meeting. There were some questions about updates on the cannabis dispensary that was at a previous land use meeting. They are supposed to come to the next township meeting to present and ordinance to pass to use a mail order cannabis dispensary.

Township Resiliency committee update: Peter attended the second meeting of the committee. The Township OEM coordinator will be the point person. The township will be working with FEMA and Maurice River Township to try and get grants and plans in to help build dikes and fix broken sluices to help plan for any potential water issues/flooding. The idea for the commission would be community outreach and informational sessions to help educate the community about climate change situations.

Single use plastic- There are no updates as of now, but personally Peter is saving single use plastic and taking it to Shop-Rite. There are no township wide updates at this point.

Correspondence: Two letters regarding were received, one for a septic system alteration and one from Water’s edge application for line verification and wetland delineation. There were no recommendations from the commission at this time.

Sharing Nature stories: hummingbird was rescued by Peter, Dale and an employee from Dollar General by walking the hummingbird out to the door by holding the feeder. Peter also shared a polyphemus moth that hatched and brought the eggs for the commission to see. Peter also saw a terrapin walking towards Peterson run from his beehive. There was also reports of a female doe fending off a coyote from some fawns. John shared about recent trip to Florida and the interaction with the Galapagos tortoise experience. Dustin shared that his garden and bees continue to do very well, they were “bearding” due to the heat but nothing concerning. Katie also shared a large sighting of lantern fly nymphs all over the fence and weeds in the garden. Joe reported that the Salem oak are about a foot and a half two feet tall, and we would like to figure out a place that would be good to plant them when they are ready.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 made by Dustin seconded by Katie.