

Commercial Township  
Special Meeting  
April 1, 2024, at 2:00 PM  
Commercial Township Hall/Virtual

Mayor Sutton calls meeting to order.

Announcement that the special meeting has been advertised in two newspapers, South Jersey Times and Daily Journal, it is being electronically recorded, and being held in full compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

Flag Salute.

In Attendance:

Ronald Sutton Sr.	Mayor
Mike Vizzard	Committeeman
Meghan Wren	Guest Speaker
Heather Miller	Township Clerk
Robert Welch	Township OEM
Clint Miller	Commercial Township Public Works Supervisor
Ken Whelden	Mayor of Maurice River Township
William Ashton	Committeeman Maurice River Township
Ben Stowman	Land Use Maurice River Township
Iris Burt	Rutgers University
Douglas Whittiker	Cumberland County Engineer Officer
Alaina Gable	Cumberland County Planning
Cormac Morrissey	Township Engineer Maurice River Township
Robyn Williams	BRIC DTA Support
Juliana Richards	BRIC DTA Support
Brian Kempf	BRIC Team Lead
Dave Bushek	ZOOM
Edward Nonnemaker	ZOOM

Meghen Wren gave her introduction and updated everyone on where the answers were to the questions that are still outstanding. The answers to those questions are not perviewous to this meeting now, and hopefully they will be able to get them from the high ups soon.

- What working waterfronts bring to the community is the higher impervious cover and the other benefits to be developed are through this dialog. What exists right now through the planning endorsing benefits and the working waterfronts is you are allowed to have a impervious cover up to 80 percent rather than 3 percent, and if you didn't have that you would have serious issues trying to develop a water front.
- The pieces for maintaining the businesses that are there and the permits that are required, you have been through the process of having the mapping developed for plan endorsement.

Ben Stowman- You're saying that the State doesn't want to sign off on General Permit Allowance to let us do anything because some species might be there? Forget inland where you might have a bald eagle or salamander, but we are talking about a working waterfront that's already dug up.

Meghen Wren - It's not likely that they are going to find something, they need to opportunity to review it before saying yes or no. They are not just going say, "Do whatever you want."

Meghen talks about the status of the nodes sent into DEP.

Ben Stowman reads off the questions that were sent in along with the agenda to DEP. They are all in agreement that those questions were great to send to in and nothing needs to be added. The group was also in agreement that they do not want to wait to have another meeting in September if most of those questions are answered sooner.

Meghen Wren talks about the action plan for tracking BRIC DTA.

Juliana Richards provides a spreadsheet to show the goals for the action plan for Commercial and Maurice River Township BRIC Technical Assistance Plan. These are the goals that have to be met for the BRIC application to be submitted. She goes over every section of the spreadsheet thoroughly for the group.

Ben Stowman- Was the spreadsheet helpful showing the flooding that we had for January and all of 2023? And how was the cause way was closed down X amount of times?

Juliana Richards- Yeah, the historical documentation helps demonstrate needs for the project and the areas affected. Its types of projects, and levels of protection that we are looking into as well.

The team talks about the 406 Project in Maurice River Township.

Robert Welch – Do you guys understand what the 404 and the 406 terms are? We just had a recent meeting with the Public Recovery Boar Head Colleen, and the 404 plan is after a disaster within your 7 days the Emergency Response Bureau would come down and make a general assessment. During that period if there is something that needs to be addressed that is in your hazard litigation plan, the 404 plans will help you tackle that problem immediately. It is basically a funding from FEMA Hazzard Litigation Program. That is within your 7-day frame, that is stage 1. Stage 2 goes to your post disaster, damage assessment, and that has to be done within a 30-day time frame, that is the 406 plans. For example, causeways, bulkheads, they know that we have had storm damage to these specific places, and they are looking to help fund them. 404 covers a wider area, 406 covers specific areas.

Mayor Whelden asked if PSEG is willing to be a partner at the table for some of the mitigation measures.

Meghan stated that she is still in communication with a lot of people at PSEG but isn't sure what role she has in reaching out about this plan in liaison terms. She thinks it would be better for the Townships to reach out to someone in PSEG for them to come to the BRIC meetings. Robert Welch stated that Dave Scarpa, County OEM Director, has information for the PSEG representative that can come to the meetings for BRIC.

The team talks about how to get the funds for the 10% match for the 100-million-dollar project.

Meghen Wren asked if anyone had any closing remarks.

Edward Nonnemaker said you can reach out to your local Congressman for any kind of help for the project. He also said he can help with the analytical aspects for the Townships as well.

Aliana Gable- I have a quick update from the State plan, you should be getting an email from us and the county. The state plan draft isn't ready yet but should be ready next month.

Meghan Wren said to stay tuned for additional work groups and meetings coming in the near future. The group all agreed that the meetings should be done quarterly. The next meeting will be Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 P.M. at the Commercial Township Municipal Building.

No Public Comment.

Mayor Sutton adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by:

Gabrielle Horseman, Deputy Clerk