

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF April 9, 2024

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, Katie Dayton, John Dayton, Ken McGill, Dale Schweitzer, Dustin Piccolo and Lorraine Shourds.

Minutes of March 12, 2024: Spelling corrections needed to names; corrections made. Motion to approve made by Ken McGill, seconded by Dale Schweitzer.

ANJEC- There is a grant available that may be able to be used for projects relating to the walking trail, but we were unable to apply for the grant if we are not sure when the trail will begin. Lorraine will contact Joe to see if she can get an update.

Website- Heather got all of the changes made and updated through the webmaster and they have been made live. Lorraine would like to give updates once a month as events and information changes and can be updated.

Sustainable Jersey and Osprey sign- we are in about the same position as we were last month. Waiting for additional approvals for points that were submitted. John will continue to look through the website to see what other points we could gather. As for the osprey sign, there has been another draft done with the edits in the text as well as incorporating a QR code. Discussed some of the style changes that were done. The next step will be to talk about the event and getting the word out about Riverfest and completing the actual work on the grounds.

Terracycle- John provided everyone with a copy of some options of where our points can go and would like everyone to check off their favorite and we will determine where our first batch of points will go towards. The group voted and chose the points should be used towards youth programs to encourage environmental stewardship and education.

Bluebird and purple martin- there was a purple martin spotted in town and they are beginning to arrive, there was also a bluebird spotted and working in the houses. Purchased predator guard and rope pulley system to replace a broke winch. Motion made by Ken to reimburse Peter, seconded by John.

Mary Ella Morie park- dedication on May 11th 10am to unveil the new signs that have been made.

Single use plastic- Chris was not able to make it but would like to come as long as he has permission from the commissioner to get permission to talk about recycling in Millville. We would like to address the single use plastic and the #5 recycling.

#5 plastic- ANJEC is also getting various reports about issues with them being accepted. Originally they were supposed to include them, but individual counties have been excluding them. ANJEC will revisit the state ordinance to help push these counties to collect these. It was suggested that we reach out to local recycling groups to see if they accept 5s and have a special run and take them there ourselves. We will follow up with Chris when he comes next meeting.

US Silica- texted Justo to invite them to the dedication. There is nothing new to report. There has been water in the front and has been pumping the water off.

Land use board- There was no meeting this month.

Facebook- Katie has made some recent posts, shared information again about spotted lanternfly eggs as well as sharing about the roadside clean up that was completed. Someone also reached out about the same area that there was reported dumping previously has been reporting dumping again as well and that information has been shared with Heather.

New business

1851 Main street- property review completed on March 30th. See attached report. Motion to approve the report made by Ken seconded by Katie. Motion passed unanimously.

Ditch mowing- Melody Mann- Port Norris There is a concern about the ditches, as she has cleaned them herself many times on her own. She has seen them mowing but they are not cleaning up trash before they are mowing and so at times they mow the trash. They have also had issues where beneficial plants have been mowed down. It could be helpful to have signage that alerts to native plants and cleaning up trash before. Also directed attending the upcoming township meeting to bring attention to it and possibly bringing it to the attention of the trash company to help them be aware of how they are putting the trash on the trucks.

Tree ordinance: everyone has a copy of the ordinance at this point. There is a lot of information in the ordinance, and it is important to be aware of the ordinances. Bill White- code official is responsible for enforcing the ordinances. There are fines and replacement of cut trees in the ordinance. Also discussed revisiting the ordinance to make it up to date at this point. Discussed boiling the ordinance down to some key points with a link to the whole ordinance and an information push to get the information needed out to the public. Peter will reach out to Bill White to talk about a public information push to get the word out and Dustin will work on breaking down the information to an easier to digest information.

Earth day: Peter will reach out to Joe about planting the Salem oak in honor of earth day. Lorraine did send some ideas to Joe about ways to protect it. Peter will also talk to Joe about what time he would like to plant it. Katie will make the Facebook push once details are finalized.

Bylaws- do we have bylaws? Katie will email Heather to ask for a copy of the bylaws or the township expectations. John and Katie will also look through records to see if we can find a copy of them. Normally we would follow the bylaws handed down by ANJEC.

Open to the public: none

Correspondence: dates of public comment period on the state police barracks. April 17th-May 17th.

Motion to adjourn made by Katie seconded Dustin. Motion passed and meeting adjourned.