

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF February 13, 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, Dustin Piccolo, Dale Schweitzer, and Lorraine Shourds.
Also present: Committeeman Mike Vizzard

Motion to have Ken McGill to join the environmental commission. Motion made by Katie Dayton, seconded by Dustin Piccolo. Commission voted- all agree, motion passed

Minutes of January 17, 2024: correction needed to Mike Vizzard's title, motion to approve by Peter, seconded by John

ANJEC- Looking to see if we could apply for an ANJEC grant to help with linking the trails between open spaces and we were looking to see if we could apply for those funds to be used as part of the planned walking trail that has been proposed by the township. The application would be needed by April. Mike confirmed that the township has plans to buy the piece of property that is currently private in order to help with the construction of the trail. Mike was hoping that the environmental committee could support benches, blue light emergency call system, and planting and signage for the different plants and species in the area. The trail will be a combination of elevated paths and asphalt trails. The county approved that the intersection will be a 4 way stop. Lorraine will look into the various grants available to determine what would be needed in order to apply for funds.

Sustainable Jersey/green team-John has sent two certifications to Heather to bring to the next township meeting to get approved again for resubmission. We have until December to apply all of our points in order to maintain our bronze status. There are some projects that are expiring, but they did not net a lot of points for the amount of work completed, so John is working to complete projects that can be completed easier to get our points. The Osprey project can be counted, as well as the blue bird/ purple martin project. TerreCycle will also count to points. John will investigate other projects we can complete once he finishes the currently expiring projects that can be more easily updated.

Osprey Sign- the mock-up has been provided for us, and Lorraine and Dustin have gone through to help make edits and simplify some of the language used in order to make it more accessible to the general public. There has a lot of feedback provided to bring back to Seth and hopefully a new mockup would be available by next meeting. It was requested to see if Seth would be available to attend the next meeting in order to answer some questions to commission has. John will make contact with him to find out. John will also talk with Seth about the possibility of adding QR codes to the sign that links directly to the sponsors. John will also work with Seth to get a logo for the environmental commission created or added to the sign.

TerraCycle- There are no major updates at this time.

Bluebird- Peter has been working on the display that the Fire department will pay for and will be informational about Bluebirds and Purple Martins. Peter will provide the text to Seth to complete the sign and will provide the text by the next meeting in order to have feedback provided. We will invite Seth to the next meeting and can discuss materials and other questions for both sets of signs.

Single use plastic- Has collected 12 bags that have been taken Chris Finch. Peter will contact Trex to see if they are still able to make benches.

Facebook/community outreach- Information about Eaglefest has been shared this past month. There was also discussion about sending out a monthly newsletter type of emailer so that the community can learn more about projects that the commission is completing.

Land use- Dustin was not able to attend the last meeting, but after reviewing the minutes there was nothing discussed that seems to impact the commission, mostly has been discussing marijuana restrictions and growing ordinances. They are working with solicitors to propose some additional restrictions. There are no concerns that the commission could see from an environmental impact.

Recycling- Ken will talk to ANJEC about different recycling options for number 5 plastics.

New Business

Website- Lorraine is looking into whether she can get access to update the commercial township website. There is some question about if the insurance company would allow an outside computer to connect to the township servers. If she would be allowed to access it she would make the website more user friendly and add some more information about current projects. Katie resent all of the minutes to Heather to ensure they can all be uploaded.

ANJEC workshop- There is an ANJEC Workshop for environmental commissions coming up, and Peter will look into the possibility of attending.

Earth day/week ideas- One idea was to work on a TerraCycle project with the schools for, David is asking at school board tonight. Dustin will follow up at the next meeting if this would be something the schools would be interest in. If we can work with the school we should be sending out informational flyers ahead of time to begin educating the families and get the kids starting to share.

Native plants- Dustin and Dale will work to plant and grow plants and maintain the areas to help do the planting. Some areas include the Mary Ella Morie park, the walking trail and the Riverside Park osprey sign. They will begin with focusing on one area and then expand throughout the years. Mike also mentioned that if the Environmental Commission would be able to get a grant or funding for a watering system, such as a golf cart and water tank, the township would be able help with the watering of the areas.

Eaglefest- Peter thanked everyone for volunteering at Eaglefest, it was well attended and there was positive feedback.

Open to the public- there is a company that is asking to build a solar field at the old landfill. At this time there is no way to tie the solar back into the utilities, but the upgrades that are being completed by AC electric could make this possible.

Correspondence- There was a letter sent to the commission to notify the commission that AC electric is upgrading their station in Downe Township.

Motion to adjourn made by Katie Dayton, Seconded by Dustin Piccolo. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.