

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF March 12, 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, and Lorraine Shourds. Also present: Committeeman Joe Klaudi and Seth Beaumont. Absent: Dale Schweitzer, Dustin Piccolo

Minutes of February 13, 2024: motion to approve by John, seconded by Lorraine. Ken did not receive the last set of minutes, provided a corrected email address to the commission.

Old Business:

ANJEC- Lorraine spent time looking into the grant for the phone systems or something for the trail being completed. At this point we will be holding off on applying for the grant due to the cost and recurring fees involved with the system

Website- Lorraine worked with heather to get the website updated to make it look more appealing and user friendly. Lorraine will continue to work with Heather to update the site as time goes along. Discussed past year's minutes and discussed if it was possible to archive or create smaller hyperlinks to clean up the number of minutes displayed on the main page.

Sustainable NJ and Osprey Sign update-

Sustainable NJ- There were a handful of recertifications were approved. TerraCycle was approved, there have also been some additional certifications approved as well. John is continuing to identify items that may be easier to update or complete projects that have been started and never completed. Still pursuing the electric vehicle and charging station. There was also a certification for the solar panels added to the senior homes and a 4th site. Mayor Sutton is looking to add solar to the old landfill so that may be something that can be added. The medical drop off at the police site has expired, but it will be easy to renew the update.

Osprey Sign- Seth is present at the meeting to discuss some of the questions of the osprey sign. John presented the updated version of the sign with the updated edits, as well as the location and type of stand to be used. The stand can be an angled/sloped back so that you can see the river easier. The proposed location will be as you enter the park between the existing sign and the corner, parallel to the river and will include a pollinator garden and stepping stones to help make it easier to stand and read. Peter would like one more read through to ensure the edits are completed. Seth stated he only needs about a week to get it printed and installed. Expected lifespan of the sign could last a very long time. The print will have a UV coated protectant and could last upwards of 8+ years. Will be made out of a hard plastic and thick coats of aluminum on a car-wrap vinyl. The final size of the size will be about 60x36 inch. Ribbon cutting will be done during Riverfest during middle of September. We will be included in the flyer that the township/county will be completed. Seth also created an updated logo for the commission. Seth will allow us to use it on Facebook and the website. There was also a discussion about QR codes and if we are able to add them. Seth can make a QR code and link it to the. The county is ok with us installing whatever and there are no permits or anything needed. They are also looking to create a "living shore line" instead of repairing the wall that is currently falling.

Terracycle- 26lbs have been sent in which is about 1909 points which could be used in various ways that John will put together a list for the next meeting that we can discussed some of the options to use the points. Also

discussed if there was any additional information about getting the project into the schools, and no information has been received at this point from the member of the school board who was discussing it at their last meeting. Peter will follow up with the member of the school board and will follow up with Katie about the project and what the school board said.

Bluebird and purple martins- there are a couple pairs of bluebirds in the park but they are not building a nest yet, but it is early. The purple martin scouts are in Virginia, but Peter will be working on getting some gourds up to be ready for the gourds. There are also bevers in the sand plant park and there was also a wood. Selth is also working on the bluebird sign and Mary Ella Morie park. The fire department and US silica both approved the park. They want one at both ends of the park as well. The only part of project left is the vector file for the bluebird logo.

Single use plastics- ANJEC released a statement that NJ is a leader in reducing plastic use. Garden state is the most successful state of plastic pollution reduction. Plastic is a big money business to plastic companies are trying to find other ways to get plastic through. Chris Finch has been taking plastic to Millville, and he will be invited to a future meeting to share information about recycling. He needs seven bails to get it in the bailer. He will get money for every pound of plastic. We would love to try and get benches, and Chris will work on trying to get some benches.

US silica- Peter will take Justo for a walk through the park for a nature walk. Peter has been visiting wit Justo once a month. Peter just met with him on Friday, on the auction weekend the duster machine broke so they hired another company to clean the road. Wants to invest in the gazebo, trash cans and adding more to the park. Peter will continue to work with Justo closely for the project, as well as Dustin and Dale to work on growing and planting native plants.

5 plastic- has contacted several people where he works, wildwood crest takes all types of recycling and other municipalities are only taking 1 and 2. Ken reached out to ANJEC to find out about their plans to help with #5 recycling. Some companies have moved from numbers and switching to letter designations. There are several different formulas to make 5 and some are recyclable, and others are not and they leech chemicals.

Land use board- The state police building: a new subdivision was approved, and they are concerned about dead trees and taking down trees and having an eye sore on the area of the property that is not being occupied any further. Part of the problem was that there was not a plan for planting, and as a commission someone was going to reach out to barber to see if they could donate plants. The other problem is that there is no funding for the irrigation system to maintain the plants. We need additional information about how to maintain any plants that might be donated. Changing the growing ordinances needed for marijuana growing was passed.

Maurice river township handing out trees soon- Peter will reach out to see if there is a way to participate in a similar program.

Facebook/Community outreach: reposted a couple of projects that are being completed in order to help with the sustainable jersey certifications. There are also some additional posts scheduled about spotted lanternflies. Also continue to work on developing a newsletter to help get other information out in another form than just Facebook.

New business

Ditch mowing practices- will be added to the agenda next month.

Earth day/earth week- Discussed planting a Salem oak in the veteran's park as part of the celebration. Also discussed the possibility of getting a TerraCycle collection in the schools during earth week and making it a collection/ competition for the classes to get involved.

Discussed updating the business cards to have contact information added to the cards we currently have.

Correspondence- related to one of the sand plants that there is an application for a freshwater wetlands letter of interpretation line verification was submitted.

Motion to adjourn- made by Katie, seconded by John, motion carried.