

Minutes
Environmental Commission Meeting
Township of Monroe
February 22, 2016

The Meeting of the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Keen in the 2nd Floor Board of Health Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex at 7:00PM

Roll Call

Present: Sandy Keen, Jenn Longo, Beth Davis, Patrick Mc Devitt

ABSENT

Frank Caligiuri, Tim McWilliams

MINUTES

No minutes from previous meeting were available

PUBLIC:

Sandy asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public, and the motion was made by Beth and 2nd by Patrick. All were in favor and none were opposed.

REPORTS:

Tree Commission-Beth Davis Shade Tree Committee- Must advertise on FB Must get everything together and ready so that when they have the people to participate committee can move forward. We also need to look into arborists.

Sustainable Monroe-Patrick McDevitt Tri County Sustainable Events
2/18 there was a networking event
3/16 Tapped-The Movie @ public library regarding status of water
3/31 Sustainable MT will be hosting the next event
June-Submission for Sustainable NJ Certification is due.
TBA-Green Fair including shredding truck

SANDY

Discussed meeting in January with Jenn Lewis~ Grafton Davis came to the meeting with concerns over the new turf for the sports fields at WHS. Many communities are using but are having health issues.

Need a Web Page- elaborate on link from the township page. Beth will work on creating a FB page.

We need to advertise for members on the FB once it's up and running.

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4H was given 40+ acres, 4H kept 16 acres and the remaining were given to US Fish & Wildlife. 2 grants written, \$25,000 & \$24,182.78. Approx \$5,025.99 of the grants is left. A well needs to be replaced on the property. Sewer lines need to be added.

Schools-Green Ribbons is moving forward. Gina/DEP will be training teachers on Project Learning Tree. Elementary levels are not able to do audits. Teachers just don't have the time. Hoping to get NHS, Engineers Academy & Interact Club involved. Training teachers on an inservice day. This may be an issue but a facilitator can train 10-30 at a time. Each school is to have 5 members to handle this program.

Governor trying to sell our aquifers- we must wait and see if this happens.

Sandy explains what ERI and NRI are and she wants to look into these.

ERI- Environmental Resource Inventory

NRI Natural Resource Inventory

Looking into update on CMFP grant up to \$1600.00 and new grant from ANJEC

Checking with Kevin Heidel to see if ANJEC is current. Voted previously to pay extra for workshops. Does Shade Tree Commission have a budget? What is EC's current annual budget? We need additional monies. Also, need WiFi password for 2nd floor of municipal building.

Historical Society is doing a Tea Party and Car Show on 5/21. They want to build a herbal garden by the Ireland House. Water feature is there. Rotary may be willing to sponsor. Maybe used as Sustainable NJ Education. No Eco Day this year at WMS due to testing. Environmental students are currently seeding for herbal garden.

Soctland Run-Hooked on Fishing , Not Drugs Train the trainer-ask Paul Van Houten if he is interested.

Sixer game is cancelled. (went forward)

Liasons to Organizations

MUA- Sandy

Shade Tree Commission- Beth

Open Space-Patrick

Sustainable NJ- Patrick

Planning Board -Frank Caligiuri

Historical Society-Sandy

Zoning Board-N/A

Board of Health-N/A

Main Street Committee -TO BE DISCUSSED

Economic Development-TO BE DISCUSSED

Parks & Rec-Tim McWilliams?

Board Of Ed- Jenn

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PUBLIC PORTION

Laurie Gawin came to tonight's meeting due to a tree issue. 100 year old tree was chopped down. She wants to know why we don't have a law to prevent this. We have the potential to lose all older trees. Laurie Gawin asked about what happened to the tree commission. Sandy and Beth responded to questions: This would fall under the jurisdiction of the EC. Township has home rule (governed under Twp) unless there is a state law that supersedes. This jurisdiction is the Mayors-everyone else is voluntary. Tree Commission~Tree grants-public awareness-tree ordinances Sandy explained that members were not re appointed and it went to the wayside

The next meeting is scheduled to be held the 3rd Monday in March 2016 (3/21/16)

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Sandy Keen asked for a motion to adjourn. Beth made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission Meeting on February 22, 2016 at 8:09PM and the motion was seconded by Patrick. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Longo, Secretary

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the hand written notes of the Regular Environmental Protection Meeting of February 22, 2016 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____

Approved as corrected _____ Date _____