

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
May 21, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission was called to order by Chairperson Ryan Rebozo at 7:14pm in the 2nd Floor Joe Pace Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Ryan Rebozo led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kathleen Flaherty, Christine Gorham, Ryan Rebozo, Matthew Scardino and Cncl. Pat O'Reilly

Absent: Beth Davis, Sandy Keen, Melissa Young and Christina Unipan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/AGENDA

Ryan Rebozo asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the additions added under Old Business. Christine Gorham made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Flaherty and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance.

Ryan Rebozo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2019 meeting. Christine Gorham made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of April 23, 2019. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Flaherty and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Email Correspondence**

Ryan received a letter from the Pinelands Commission which he had forwarded to the Commission for their review. The letter highlighted a potential public hearing regarding an application that is missing Pinelands Development Credits and has a deed restriction. Cncl. O'Reilly clarified the applicant, referenced in the letter, has been approved for his 2nd phase of development but will not receive a final approval from the Township until he receives a clean Pinelands certification. He will find out what the deed restriction is for the property and report back at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Nominations for Vice-Chairperson**

Ryan has spoken with Melissa and after review of the list of responsibilities, she expressed interest in running for Vice-Chairperson. Ryan nominated Melissa Young for Vice-Chairperson and all members of the Commission that were in attendance approved the nomination.

- **Nominations for Pinelands Municipal Council**

Ryan explained, being part of the Pinelands Municipal Council is not necessarily in the Commission's preveue, as they are not necessarily just environmentally focused but they do cover a large variety of issues that towns in the Pinelands have. He feels as a Township, not necessarily just as an Environmental Commission, it is important for us to have a seat at their table. He asked for suggestions for nomination suggestions from the Commission. He feels because of his job being non-profit, it would be a conflict for him to hold a position with the Pinelands Municipal Council. Matt suggested Patrick McDevitt from Sustainable Monroe. Ryan will reach out to Patrick to discuss this and will report back at the next meeting.

- **Social Media Committee Report**

Christine advised there is no report at this time as the committee was not able to meet prior to tonight's meeting. Ryan said, he had spoken with Melissa earlier and she suggested possibly scaling back on some of the very ambitious goals they had previously laid out.

- **Great Egg Harbor River Council**

Ryan said, Rick Coe was not able to come to tonight's meeting but he is hopeful to be able to attend the June meeting.

- **Mission Statement**

Ryan has prepared an updated mission statement where he has incorporated all of the comments and suggestions made at the last meeting. He forwarded the updated mission statement to the members for their review. All members in attendance approved the updated mission statement.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Community Forestry Discussion**

Ryan advised, he is still waiting for Sandy to let him know what has been done and what needs to be done with regards to the Community Forestry Plan for this year. He is going to try and sit down with Sandy to put together a checklist before the next meeting. He would like to see the Community Forestry Plan through as it is something that was inherited and he feels there is value to it. Kate suggested by the next meeting if the checklist is not resolved, then the Commission will need to start over fresh with the Community Forestry Plan in order to complete the yearly commitments. All members in attendance were in agreement.

Christine updated the members regarding the education requirements for the Community Forestry Plan. She said there are Shade Tree Commission meetings held throughout the state and she is going to try to attend one of the upcoming meetings.

- **Budget**

Ryan advised, that he has begun compiling a list of expenses for the Commission. He asked everyone to send him any expense items they have, so he can update the list. He would like to have a completed list of yearly expenses to forward to administration for review. Cncl. O'Reilly suggested keeping this year's budget informal as the Township's budget has already been set.

- **Tree List**

Ryan talked about creating a Tree List that can be shared with homeowners, developers and the Township. He has created a list of all trees and tall shrubs that are native to the County and are commercially available. He has broken the list into four categories, Pinelands species, tree or shrub, street tree and shade tree with the purpose to promote native trees to the developers and residents. He said, the tree Ordinance that is currently in place lists mostly trees that are not native to the town and he would like to find native alternatives to suggest. He asked for suggestions that the other members felt would be useful in distributing a tree list to the public. A discussion among the members followed discussing the tree list and possible Ordinance changes.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Ryan said, he talked with the Library and was informed there would be no charge for the Commission to use one of their meeting rooms for any future presentations. He feels, once the Commission's social media presence starts, we should schedule a presentation and advertise it as one of the first posts. He talked about hosting an event sometime in June. Cncl. O'Reilly is concerned hosting events in the summer may not be well attended as the town being so close to the shore becomes a bit of a ghost town in the summer months. Kate feels waiting until the end of the

summer/early fall to start hosting events would be a better idea and it would allow the Commission to become more cohesive in the things they are planning. Matt feels the Commission should focus on its' social media presence over the summer months. Cncl. O'Reilly would see a lot more focus on educating the younger generation. A discussion among the members followed regarding working with Camp Squankum during the summer to promote environmental education to the children.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Matthew Scardino made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Christine Gorham and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance. With no one from the public present and/or wishing to speak, Matthew Scardino made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Christine Gorham and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Ryan Rebozo asked for a motion to adjourn. Christine Gorham made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of May 21, 2019. The motion was seconded by Matthew Scardino and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Commission in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission meeting is Monday, June 17, 2019 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of May 21, 2019 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____