

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
June 17, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission was called to order by Chairperson Ryan Rebozo at 7:00pm 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, Melissa Young and Cncl. Pat O'Reilly

Absent: Beth Davis, Matthew Scardino, and Christina Unipan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/AGENDA

Ryan Rebozo asked for a motion to approve the agenda with an addition under New Business of Commission Openings. Kathleen Flaherty made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition under New Business. The motion was seconded by Melissa Young and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance.

Ryan Rebozo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2019 meeting. Kathleen Flaherty made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of May 21, 2019. The motion was seconded by Christine Gorham and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Ryan welcomed guest, Terry to all of the members in attendance. Terry serves on the Waterford Environmental Protection Commission and has been a member for the last 15 years. She said, her board tries to find neighboring towns that are similar to their own to visit and attend their meetings to offer any help or ideas that may be needed.

- **Email Correspondence**

Ryan advised that there are no new emails to discuss. Cncl. O'Reilly provided an update to the email that was discussed at the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Commission Openings**

Ryan explained that due to personal issues, Beth Davis will be resigning from the Commission. He is waiting to receive her formal letter of resignation. Also, he received Sandy Keen's letter of resignation late last week. He noted, that there is currently 1 full position open and 1 alternate position open on the Commission. Ryan asked the members in attendance if they know of anyone who would like to serve on the Commission, to please send him their information so he can try and fill these open positions. Cncl. O'Reilly asked secretary, Jenn Harbison, to reach out to Cncl. Miller and Cncl. Falcone, to have the open positions posted on the Township's Facebook page. Christine Gorham stated that she has been made a contributor by Beth on the Commission's current Facebook page and she will also post the open positions there as well.

- **Social Media Committee Report**

Melissa explained there is currently nothing new to report as she and Christine were not able to meet prior to this evening's meeting. Melissa said, they would like to start the process of phasing out the current Facebook page as Sandy and Beth are the creators and administrators of the current page, it is linked to their personal email address and they both leaving the Commission. Christine said, she will create a new Facebook page for the Commission

that will be connected to the Commission's email address. Melissa and Christine will be schedule a meeting prior to next month's meeting to begin to prepare a monthly calendar of what the commission would like posted on the Facebook page. Melissa feels the commission should also have an Instagram account as well.

- **Nominations for Pinelands Municipal Council**

Ryan has reached out to Patrick McDevitt from Sustainable Monroe and he is very interested in serving as the Township's representative at the Pinelands Municipal Council. Ryan said, it is a matter of the Mayor appointing him as a designee so that Patrick can attend the July Pinelands Municipal Council meeting. Ryan will draft a recommendation letter and Cncl. O'Reilly will forward it to Mayor DiLucia for his approval and appointment.

- **Music Festival Table**

Ryan said the tabling event at the Music Fest went well. He felt that it was a good start and he knows now what needs to be added for the next event. Christine said, they talked to the residents during the music fest and asked what their concerns were. Most residents were concerned about the amount of trash that is produced.

Melissa feels there needs to be a push within the town to start reducing waste. Kathleen said, reducing waste is a measurable item for the town. She spoke about possibly holding a school contest to create advocacy posters to bring attention to reducing waste, recycling, etc. Melissa said, the posters will need to show the positive side of the changes and steer away from the negative and the consequences. Cncl. O'Reilly suggested coordinating with Sustainable Monroe to work on creating an advocacy program within the town.

- **Tree Ordinance**

Ryan spoke regarding creating a tree ordinance, to direct residents to a list of trees native to Gloucester County. This Ordinance will help direct developers on what they should plant and what they can and cannot cut or remove from lots. He is researching some of the neighboring towns' Ordinances and once he finishes putting everything together, along with the tree list he created, he will forward it to the members for their review. Cncl. O'Reilly advised, there is total support from Council with regards to creating this Ordinance. Ryan asked for ideas of what else should be added, other than the specific list of native species. Cncl. O'Reilly feels clearing cutting should be top on the list and that clear cutting needs to be limited to the critical infrastructure. Ryan asked, how clear cutting should be defined, stating there needs to be some sort of threshold. Kathleen said, in order for it to have some pull, it would have to state a percentage of the developable lots, not necessarily a percentage of the property. A discussion followed among the members present regarding ideas of how the Ordinance shall be created.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Community Forestry Discussion**

Ryan has not heard back from Sandy with regards to what has been done for the Community Forestry Plan, at this point the Commission feels it is time to start fresh and move forward. He mentioned that Patrick McDevitt has been in the loop with this Community Forestry Plan through Sustainable Monroe and he will help provide guidance as to what needs to be done and what has been done. Kathleen said she will go through the plan and work with Patrick McDevitt to create an outline with the critical next steps and obligations that require the Commission's attention.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Cncl. O'Reilly advised that the Township is updating the Master Plan, which will take a little over a year to complete. He has the Planner looking into incorporating green design focus into the plan. He suggested forming a subcommittee to meet with the Planner to discuss items that can be incorporated into the plan from an environmental standpoint.

Kathleen stated during a conference that she recently attended, there was a lot of attention placed on PFAS chemicals. She stated there is nothing that needs to be done at the present time but it needs to be on everyone's

radar. Kate explained, the PFAS are mostly found in fire-fighting chemicals, however they are now finding them in almost everything. She said, the research on this is very new and septic systems may now be a source for regional contamination. She noted that from a risk prospective the banks are starting to pay attention because it is a future liability. She said, California just ordered every airport in the state to conduct an assessment for PFAS in the groundwater. She explained, one of these highly regulated states, of which New Jersey is one, will conduct studies, develop guidance's and those guidance's will inform EPA and other states to adopt.

Cncl. O'Reilly explained that the Township has recently received a grant from the Pinelands Commission to extend water and sewer down the Black Horse Pike towards Hospitality Creek. The Pinelands would like as much commercial and industrial development as they can get built along the Black Horse Pike going towards Hospitality Creek.

Cncl. O'Reilly spoke regarding the retention basins. He said, there is an opportunity for grant money from Rutgers to convert the basins back into their own natural ecosystems. He would like to start with finding one basin in town and convert it back into own ecosystem as a test basin. All of the members in attendance were in agreeance and they spoke of possible locations for the test basin.

Cncl. O'Reilly advised that the Township has officially hired Triad as their official grant writer. He had a meeting with them and discussed what the Commission's focus is. Triad will research the available grants and recommend any grants that apply to the Commission.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Melissa Young 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, Christine Gorham made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Melissa Young 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. Kathleen Flaherty made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of June 17, 2019. The motion was seconded by Melissa Young 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, July 15, 2019 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of June 17, 2019 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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