

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
July 15, 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, Matthew Scardino, Melissa Young and Cncl. Pat O'Reilly

Absent: Beth Davis and Christina Unipan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/AGENDA

Ryan Rebozo asked for a motion to approve the agenda with an addition under New Business of discussing the ERI. Melissa Young made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition under New Business. 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 June 17, 2019 meeting. Kathleen Flaherty made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of June 17, 2019. The motion was seconded by Melissa Young and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Email Correspondence**

Ryan advised that there are no new emails to discuss. He said that the Municipal Clerk, Aileen Chiselko, had just forwarded him a few emails earlier today from the Pinelands Commission, which he has not had a chance to review. Once he has a chance to review them, he will circulate the information be discussed it at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Social Media Committee Report**

Christine reported that Beth has made her an administrator on the Commission's Facebook page, so she can now make changes and post as the Commission. Kate suggested the beginning posts should be an introduction of the members. Melissa and Christine will send out a list of questions to each of the members to complete and as they receive them, they will create a member profile to post on the Commission's page introducing that member. Melissa will create an Instagram for the Commission and link it to the Facebook page.

- **Tree Ordinance / ERI**

Ryan sent out the current Environmental Resource Inventory, ERI, to all of the members to review prior to the meeting. Ryan feels that the Commission is able to make the updates and improvements in order to make it relevant. Cncl. O'Reilly stated that the Township's Planner, Tim Kernan, created the current ERI and he is currently working on updating the Master Plan. Melissa suggested cross referencing the ERI and the Master Plan to avoid double efforts and ensure the level of detail is what the Commission wants also. A discussion followed among the members present regarding the ERI and Master Plan. Melissa suggested having a Commission member on the Master Plan Sub-Committee, to which all members present agreed.

Ryan said that he has not had much time to work on the Tree Ordinance other than the first draft and once he has it in a better condition, he will circulate it to everyone for their review and thoughts.

OLD BUSINESS

• **Community Forestry Discussion**

Kate reported that she has begun to go through the Community Forestry Plan. A discussion ensued discussing her questions and thoughts regarding the plan. She is going to meet with Patrick McDevitt from Sustainable Monroe to discuss the plan further as he was a Commission member when the plan was first created. Cncl. O’Reilly is going to contact the Township’s Grant Writer to see what the benefits are with having an updated Community Forestry Plan in terms of funding opportunities for the Commission.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Kate feels that a tree census needs to be created in order to have an updated tree inventory within the Township. Cncl. O’Reilly is concerned from a preservation standpoint about the memorial trees. Melissa suggested having a contest to find the oldest tree in town. Cncl. O’Reilly said, this contest will help promote the Environmental Commission in a fun way. A discussion followed among the members present regarding creating the contest.

Cncl. O’Reilly and Cncl. Falcone will be attending the Municipal Pinelands workshop next week, where they will be focusing on commercial development. Cncl. O’Reilly advised that the Pinelands Commission has recently really loosened up on their restrictions and are pushing the Township to develop along the Black Horse Pike towards Hospitality Creek.

Cncl. O’Reilly said he is in the process of having the Administration look into creating a compost facility in Monroe Township. He feels this will help with reducing waste and with the rising trash and recycling costs. A discussion followed regarding the members’ ideas for a compost facility from an environmental standpoint.

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, Christine Gorham made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Matthew Scardino 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 July 15, 2019. The motion was seconded by Christine Gorham 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, August 19, 2019 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of July 15, 2019 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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