

**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
AUGUST 19, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Melissa Young at 7:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Joe Pace Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Vice-Chairperson Melissa Young led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Beth Davis, Ryan Rebozo, and Christina Unipan

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES/AGENDA**

Melissa Young asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Christine Gorham made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Flaherty and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance.

Melissa Young asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2019 meeting. Kathleen Flaherty made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of July 15, 2019. The motion was seconded by Matthew Scardino and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

**CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

- **Email Correspondence**

Melissa advised that there are four emails from the Pineland Commission regarding certificates of filings.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Tree and Native Plant Ordinance**

Melissa said, after speaking with Ryan prior to the meeting, Ryan advised that he has started working on the Ordinance and once he finishes, he will share with the Commission.

- **Social Media Committee Report**

Melissa said, her and Ryan would like to move forward with creating the Oldest Tree Contest and promoting it on the Commission's Social Media pages. Kate feels this contest would be a really good idea for the Commission and would generate a lot of community outreach and education. Melissa said that the Township's Green Fair is scheduled to take place at the end of September and she suggested creating a flyer that will promote the contest to have at the Commission's table during the fair. Kate suggested holding the contest throughout the fall and announcing the winner at the Tree Lighting to which all members present agreed. A discussion followed regarding the rules, criteria, how to apply, how to promote the contest and possible prizes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Retention Basin Management**

Melissa said, that the basin in her development has recently been mowed and now that it has been mowed, she has been hearing a lot of complaints from neighbors about the amount of mosquitos which is because all of the frogs are now gone. She said, they couldn't mow the entire basin because there are still some wet parts, so there is still water but now there are no living things there to eat the mosquitos. Melissa stated that Ryan wanted this item back on the agenda so that the members can talk about what happens now when people complain about mosquitos, do we

suggest spraying pesticides and if so, what does that mean for the environment. Cncl. O'Reilly said the mosquito control is handled through the County. Melissa said, as the Environmental Commission, we should be trying to steer away from that type of mosquito control. Kate feels that this is a very good topic to focus long term education on, it is very applicable to all residents. Melissa said, in the future, she would also like to have a workshop, where we make bat boxes for the basins. Christine suggested possibly adding that to the table at the Green Fair. Kate said, she is going to work on creating a pamphlet that can be handed out at tabling events, educating the community on the value of keeping the basins nature.

- **ERI Discussion**

Melissa shared a message from Ryan stating that he has been unable to meet with Planner, Tim Kernan regarding the ERI but he is in the process of scheduling a meeting. He said, he is willing to take on soils, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, priority habitats and mapping and he has already started to map natural heritage priority sites and important habitat features in town for the ERI

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Christine asked about the status of the property on Sykes Road. Cncl. O'Reilly advised that the Open Space Advisory Committee has taken the lead on this project and has made an offer to purchase the property. They are waiting to hear back as to whether their offer has been accepted. He said, once the property is acquired, Open Space will work together with Sustainable Monroe and the Environmental Protection Commission on the vision for the property.

Kate asked if there are any updates on composting. Cncl. O'Reilly said, not at this time, he has not been able to meet with the Gloucester Township Officials who are in charge of their composting, however once he is able to meet with Gloucester Township he will report back.

**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, Vice-Chairperson Melissa Young asked for a motion to adjourn. Kathleen Flaherty made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of August 19, 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, September 16, 2019 at 7:00pm.

*These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of August 19, 2019 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.*

Approved as submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_