

**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FEBRUARY 24, 2020**

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, Joseph Mahoney, Ryan Rebozo, Matthew Scardino, Jennifer Rutter, April Scales, Katie Seeley

Absent: Christine Gorham, Melissa Young, Cncl. Cody Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/AGENDA

Ryan Rebozo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting. Kathleen Flaherty made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of January 27, 2020. The motion was seconded by Joseph Mahoney and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

Ryan Rebozo asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the February 24, 2020 meeting. Kathleen Flaherty made a motion to approve the agenda for the February 24, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Rutter.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Email Correspondence**

Ryan reported one certificate of filing came through from the Pinelands Commission notifying the Commission that a decision has not yet been made on the request

Ryan asked if any of the members were interested in attending the ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission) one day program that is coming up in March. There is no fee to attend the program since everyone is a member of the Environmental Protection Commission. ANJEC requires yearly updated rosters from every commission. Ryan has sent around a templet to everyone to complete and return to him so that he can accurately update and provide the roster.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Tree Ordinance**

Ryan has created a draft Tree Ordinance which he emailed to all of the members for their review. The draft Ordinance is more comprehensive than originally discussed, but he believes it is a good starting point. He asked everyone to review the Ordinance and bring their comments, edits, and ideas to the next scheduled meeting in March. He would like to be able to finalize the draft Ordinance and present it to Council for their approval and adoption. A discussion followed regarding what the members would like to see included in the Ordinance.

- **Drainage Basin Management**

Ryan has reached out to Cncl. Miller who has advised that Public Works is interested in the Commission's proposed basin project. They would like to start with one basin first and from that begin an education campaign, educating the residents who live around the basins, the community in general and the people doing the work to the basins, as to the value of changing the management of the basins. Kate provided Ryan with a power point presentation that provides a lot of the data, how to's and formulas needed to calculate the cost savings to the Township. Ryan will forward the presentation to all of the members for their review. Kate explained the power point presentation to the members present. Ryan suggested creating a list of the top 3 basins that are most visible within the Township to present to Council. A discussion followed regarding the basins in the Township and what the project would entail.

- **GSI Project**
 - **ANJEC grant and plan**

Ryan explained that GSI stands for Green Storm Water Infrastructure, which is a more encompassing term of the different strategies that can be used to infiltrate more storm water in the developments. It can include things like basins and rain gardens. Rutgers through money received from the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association has come out with a plan with different proposed sites in town where these types of projects would be useful, because they are areas with a lot of impervious cover. Ryan met with the Executive Director of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association and they would like to help one of the projects come off the ground. Ryan thinks the Commission should take advantage of the help while it is being offered. The project they are interested in, which will tie into Sustainable Monroe is to create a rain garden at the Library. Ryan explained the project and the costs associated. He would like to present this potential project to Council to see if they would be able to contribute the labor needed and then organize a planting day along with the Community Garden and Sustainable Monroe. He polled the members present to see if this project is something worth pursuing to which everyone agreed.

- **Bike Path Parking Acquisition**
 - **Press release**

Ryan spoke regarding the property that the Open Space Advisory Committee recently acquired to be used as a parking lot for the bike path. Ryan discussed the press release that he, Len Fritz from Open Space, and Patrick McDevitt from Sustainable Monroe created to advise the residents of the property acquisition. A discussion followed regarding ideas and plans for the parking lot.

- **ERI Update**

Ryan had previously emailed all of the member a copy of the ERI (Environmental Resource Inventory) to review. The ERI is a 15 year old document and Ryan is interested in finding portions that the Commission can update. Not everything in the ERI has to be updated because not everything has changed. A few things that need to be updated and stood out were; the existing land use in town, existing zoning in the pinelands areas, groundwater resources, surface water resources, watersheds, sub-watersheds, and streams among a few others. Kate said, a lot of this information is on the New Jersey GeoWeb. Ryan believes if the Commission is up to tackling the update, it will go a long way since the Township is working on updating its' Master Plan. There is a value of having the ERI updated prior to the Master Plan, as it can be referenced and incorporated. He is going to continue to work on the update and asked if anyone would be willing to also tackle a section to update. Kate said, tackling a section to update is a good way to learn about it. She will update the known contaminated sites lists. She will try and give a demonstration on the GeoWeb at next month's meeting. Ryan said, there is also a relatively new mapping tool called New Jersey Conservation Blueprint which has municipal level data, water quality information among other things. Kate suggested that when reviewing the ERI to keep in mind what might be missing.

OLD BUSINESS

• **Oldest Tree Competition**

Ryan said, after speaking with Patrick McDevitt at Sustainable Monroe, he heard the competition may be coming back. Kate said, she is unaware of that and it was not discussed at the last Sustainable Monroe meeting. Ryan will reach out to Melissa before the next meeting for an update.

• **Social Media**

This was tabled until the March meeting as Melissa and Christine are both running point on the Commission’s Social Media.

• **Wetland Violation**

Ryan advised that at the end of last year, there were 3 separate wetlands violations in the town and that the Zoning Office is aware and handling them.

• **Open Space Advisory Committee Liaison**

Secretary, Jenn Harbison, advised that the Liaison position cannot be shared between 2 members. Ryan noted the need of having a member serve as the Open Space Advisory Committee liaison, noting the value is that the liaison becomes the bridge between the two commissions. He asked that the members give it some consideration and let him know at the next meeting if they are interested.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Matthew Scardino made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Rutter and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance. With no one from the public present and/or wishing to speak, Joseph Maloney made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Katie Seeley 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. April Scales made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of February 24, 2020. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Flaherty and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Commission in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission meeting is Monday, March 16, 2020 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of February 24, 2020 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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