

**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JULY 20, 2020**

By way of electronic communication/live streaming, the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 7:00 PM by Chairman, Ryan Rebozo. 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: Christine Gorham, Kathleen Flaherty, Joseph Mahoney, Matthew Scardino, Ryan Rebozo, Jennifer Rutter, April Scales, Katie Seeley and Cncl. Cody Miller

Absent: Melissa Young

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/AGENDA

Ryan Rebozo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2020 meeting. Matthew Scardino made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of June 15, 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 July 20, 2020 meeting. Christine Gorham made a motion to approve the agenda for the July 20, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by April Scales and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Email Correspondence**

Ryan discussed an email that was received from a resident expressing their concerns with a possible mining operation at Block 8401, Lot 10. Ryan will research the situation and concerns and report back at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Native Plant Ordinance**

Ryan attended the Ordinance Committee Meeting of July 1, 2020 and presented the Native Plant Ordinance to Council. Cncl. Miller and Cncl. O'Reilly were helpful in describing the intent behind the Ordinance and what the Commission hopes to accomplish with the Ordinance. Cncl. Miller noted, the Ordinance was received fairly well. There were some concerns over some of the language. He has forwarded the Ordinance to the Township Planner, Tim Kernan and Solicitor Trimble for further review. He is hopeful to have a revised Draft Ordinance to present for First Reading at the next scheduled Ordinance Committee Meeting on August 5, 2020.

- **Drainage Basin Project**

Ryan advised that after the last meeting, he sent a list of questions to Public Works for review but has not heard back yet. Cncl. Miller will send a follow up call to the Director of Public Works, Nick Mercado. Kate mentioned that she is working on a pamphlet on naturalizing basins in order to educate the public on the project. Cncl. Miller said once the pamphlet is complete, it can be included with the tax bills or the water bills to help distribute it to the public.

- **Bike Path Property**

Ryan spoke briefly with the Chairman of the Open Space Advisory Committee, Len Fritz after the Commission’s June meeting but he was unable to attend the last Open Space Advisory Committee meeting. He will reach out to Len for an update on the property and report back at next month’s meeting. Ryan, Christine and Kate will try to attend the Open Space Advisory Committee meeting on August 3, 2020.

- **Composting**

Ryan asked Cncl. Miller what the Township does with the leaves once they are picked up throughout the Township. He explained that the Commissions’ interest is that the organic matter which is picked up in town does at some point become compost and used for the residents or local farms. Cncl. Miller will reach out to Mike Calvello at Public Works for clarification on what the Township does with the leaves and report back to the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Social Media**

Christine stated that currently, there is nothing new report with regards to Social Media. She is posting things relating to the Commission as she sees them, however, she has noticed the posts are a lot more State driven and not really Township driven. She is trying to make it more local going forward. Christine noted that the posts are getting noticed and they are helping to build an audience, maybe not as fast as originally hoped for but people are definitely noticing and reacting to the posts.

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 20, 2020. The motion was seconded by Katie Seeley and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission meeting is Monday, August 24, 2020 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of July 20, 2020 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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