

**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 19, 2021**

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 Chairperson, Kathleen Flaherty. Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson, Kate Flaherty led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kate Flaherty, Christine Gorham, Joseph Mahoney, Melissa Young and Darryl Hodges

Absent: Anthony Derieux, Jonathan Garbowski, Katie Seeley and Cncl. Katherine Falcone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/AGENDA

Christine Gorham made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of March 15, 2021. The motion was seconded by Darryl Hodges and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Email Correspondence**

Kate reported the majority of the emails that she receives are from the Pinelands Commission advising of pending approvals and applications, however none of the emails are action items for the Commission. Kate noted, the Commission is always copied to make them aware of the pending approvals and applications and the action items fall on the applicant or the Township. Kate said, she will follow up with Cncl. Falcone on who in the Township ensures that the action items are being followed.

Kate stated, she received a phone call from a resident asking about the Shade Tree Commission. Kate will research this and reach back out to the resident. A discussion followed about what a Shade Tree Commission is, its' responsibilities and how it pertains to the Environmental Protection Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Master Plan Update**
 - **Native Plant Ordinance**
 - **Sustainable Monroe – Green Building Design Ordinance**

Kate noted that she is going to leave this topic on future Agendas, as a reminder to stay in the loop of the status of the Master Plan, so that the Commission can be active participants. She has the old Master Plan and will distribute it to anyone that would like to read through it. Melissa feels that members of the Commission need to be on the Master Plan Update Committee. Melissa suggested drafting a memo to the Mayor and Council advising them of the crucial role the Commission plays in the updating of the Master Plan. Kate stated, prior to drafting an advisement memo, the Commission should first review the current Master Plan for the areas that need to be improved. She feels the memo should be sent directly to the Mayor first. A discussion followed regarding how the Environmental Protection Commission can play in the Master Plan update.

Melissa spoke regarding the Sustainable Monroe – Green Building Design Ordinance. She shared her screen to show the members present a sample Ordinance and what the Ordinance entails. Under Sustainable New Jersey, in order for Sustainable Monroe to continue receiving points and potentially receive a higher level of certification, it would be beneficial for the town to adopt this Green Building Design Ordinance. Melissa explained, the benefits of the Ordinance being adopted and how the checklist contained within can be modified to best suit the town and not become a deterrent to potential builders. Melissa feels it would be beneficial for the Commission along with the Open Space Committee to work together with Sustainable Monroe on creating and presenting this Ordinance.

- **Drainage Basin Project / Pamphlet**

Kate noted, she has not had a chance to work on the pamphlet, so there is no update at this time. Cncl. Falcone reached out to Kate prior to this evening's meeting regarding a potential meeting with Public Works. Kate, Melissa and Patrick from Sustainable Monroe are going to try to meet with them to discuss the location they are proposing for the test basin. Kate noted that she is going to bring a hard copy of the impervious cover report from Rutgers to the meeting.

- **Crystal Lake Contamination**

Kate spoke regarding the contamination of Crystal Lake, bringing the members present up-to-date on the situation. Kate was contacted by a resident, asking the status of what was going on with the contamination. She spoke with Cncl. O'Reilly to see if the town had received any communication from NJDEP or if the town had any records pertaining to Crystal Lake. The Township only owns Crystal Lake because of a tax sale, it was not voluntary. Cncl. O'Reilly had the Clerk check and there are no records pertaining to Crystal Lake. Kate noted, she has put in an OPRA Request to NJDEP to try and gather more information on the ground water contamination. Kate explained the hazards of the ground water contamination. She wants to add this to the Agenda, as a talking point, because there are significant grants for municipalities to clean up open sites, 100% of the investigation and up to 75% of the remedial action.

- **Earth Day / Recycling Campaign**

Kate said, Sustainable Monroe and the members of the Commission are working down to the wire on ideas to present for Earth Day.

Christine mentioned, Public Works placed a recycling sticker on her recycling can with what can and cannot be recycled and asked if anyone else had received the sticker. Kate said, with regards to Recycling, she feels that Public Works should handle the outreach to the public. She would rather the Commission promote zero waste.

- **Bike Path Property**

Kate reported, according to the Sustainable Monroe meeting last week, there has been no movement on the Bike Path Property.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Social Media**

Kate thanked Darryl for the comments he sent her with regards to social media. She asked everyone if they have ideas on posts for the Commission's social media page, to please send them to her or Christine to post.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Darryl Hodges made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Joe Mahoney and unanimously approved by all members of the Commission in attendance. With no one wishing to speak and no public comment received, Melissa Young made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Joseph Mahoney and unanimously approved by all members of Commission in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Darryl Hodges made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of April 19, 2021. 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, May 17, 2021 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of April 19, 2021 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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