

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

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission was called to order by Chairperson Kate Flaherty 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, Kate Flaherty led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kate Flaherty, Christine Gorham, Melissa Young, Darryl Hodges, Anthony Derieux and Cncl. Falcone

Absent: Jonathan Garbowski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/AGENDA

Darryl Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of May 17, 2021. The motion was seconded by Anthony Derieux and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Misc. Matters**

Kate noted that Katie Seeley has resigned from her position on the Commission. With the current vacancies on the Commission's roster, she asked both Darryl and Anthony if would they like to be moved from Alternate members to full members, to which they both agreed. Cncl. Falcone will let the Mayor know, so the appropriate appointments can be made at the next Council meeting. Kate asked everyone present if they know of someone who would like to serve on the Commission, to please forward them the Citizen Leadership form that Jenn emailed to everyone prior to the meeting.

- **Email Correspondence**

Kate advised there is nothing new to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Cncl. Falcone noted there is not any updates to the Master Plan at this time.

Cncl. Falcone noted, she believes that the Native Plant Ordinance should go hand in hand with the Master Plan update. Kate agreed that the two should go hand-in-hand, however she expressed her concerns with

the lack of movement on the Master Plan, which in turn stalls the Native Plant Ordinance among other items that are good for the town. Cncl. Falcone spoke in reference to doing an amendment to the Master Plan instead of waiting for the Master Plan Update. Cncl. Falcone noted, she feels the Master Plan update should wait until next year, as the town is awaiting the Census results and those results will weigh in on the update. A discussion followed regarding the Master Plan and how the Native Plant Ordinance and the Green Building Design Ordinance can be included in the update and/or an amendment.

- **Crystal Lake Contamination**

Kate noted she has requested the records from the NJDEP for both the in-ground water contamination at Crystal Lake and for the old Remcor facility that was located next to Crystal Lake. Kate advised that the Remcor case files are closed, which is generally not the case if they are still responsible for something, while the Crystal Lake contamination case remains open, which poses a concern. There a lot of files and due to the size of the files, they cannot be sent electronically, she is waiting for an estimate on the cost to have copies of the files sent to her.

- **Drainage Basin Project / Pamphlet**

Kate spoke regarding the meeting that her and Melissa had with the Director of Public Works, Nick Mercado and Mike Calvello at Owen Parks to look at the basin that Public Works suggested. She noted, the location could not be better, however their issue was that it is not really a basin that needs help and it not actually a basin, it is more of a flood control area. Melissa stated, it is a matter of figuring out what to do with it, because it does not flood frequently. Kate referenced the impervious cover assessments that Rutgers did for the town a few years back, which she provided to both Nick Mercado and Mike Calvello for their review. In the back of the assessments, Rutgers provided various examples of projects and locations to improve the town's impervious cover, with estimates of prices for labor and materials included. Kate explained, at the end of their meeting, they were all in agreement to continue to have conversations to mutually come up with the location everyone can agree on and at the same time the members of the Environmental Protection Commission will start brainstorming how they will receive funding for the project. She will email the assessments to all of the members for their review and asked everyone to pick their top 3 proposed projects to discuss at the August meeting. A discussion followed regarding the various projects, the locations and the benefits to the town.

Kate asked Cncl. Falcone her thoughts on the Drainage Basin Pamphlet and what the next steps will be to have it distributed to the residents. Cncl. Falcone does not feel that most people will looks at it, especially if it does not affect them, noting she would target the area that it will directly affect. Kate explained, the pamphlet is not specific to one particular project, it is more of a public education tool about basins. Melissa asked about having the pamphlet included with the MMUA bills so that they may be distributed to a larger percentage of the residents and will help alleviate the Commission having to pay for postage. Melissa spoke about acquiring prices to have the pamphlet printed or the possibly of having them printed in house. A discussion followed regarding the most effective ways to have the pamphlet distributed to the majority of the residents.

Cncl. Falcone noted that the Best Western is being redone and suggested maybe approaching them to possibly create a project at their site. Tony suggested, looking at the basin in front of Fulton Bank on the Black Horse Pike. A discussion ensued about the various detention and retention ponds located throughout the town.

• **Bike Path Property**

Melissa updated the members present about the Sykes Lane property that the township acquired through the Open Space Advisory Committee. Melissa noted, there is a meeting scheduled with herself, Kate, the Chairperson of Open Space, Len Fritz and Cncl. Pres. O'Reilly for tomorrow at the Sykes Lane property to discuss a possible concept plan for the property that can be done in phases. She stated, they would like to keep everything environmentally friendly. The area has been designated as open space, with the idea to use the space as parking and connect to the bike path. Sustainable Monroe has obtained a grant for a bike repair station, which they would like to have installed at the property. Melissa spoke in reference to the various things needed to do to the property in order to get it ready to be a parking lot. Melissa expressed her concerns about placing the bike repair station on the property, noting the property is not publicized. Melissa noted that the property is in a great location, as it is an almost half way point on the bike path and it could be used as a type of rest stop for the bike path. A discussion followed regarding the property and the various projects that could be done to the property over time.

OLD BUSINESS

• **Social Media**

Kate advised there is nothing new to report at this time, except that the page is receiving more engagement and more follows.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Christine Gorham made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Melissa Young and unanimously approved by all members of the Commission in attendance. With no one wishing to speak, Anthony Derieux made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Melissa Young and unanimously approved by all members of Commission in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Anthony Derieux made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of July 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, August 16, 2021 at 7:00pm.

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

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