

**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JANUARY 23, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission was called to order by Chairperson Dan Kozak at 6:30pm 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 Dan Kozak led the Commission in the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Anthony Bundi, Maryanne Chappell, Crystal Fox, Dan Kozak, Patricia Purdy, Matthew Urquhart, Carl Wise and Cncl. McKinney

Guest: John Piligno

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Patricia Purdy made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Environmental Protection Commission meeting of December 19, 2022. The motion was seconded by Matthew Urquhart.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- Email Correspondence – None

NEW BUSINESS

- 2023 Goals / Projects

Dan spoke regarding some things that the Commission has done in the past that have been successful, such as handing out small tree saplings and tomato plants at the Township's various events. He distributed printouts from the New Jersey Forestry, Rutgers, the NJ DEP, and the US Environmental Commission, asking if anyone would like to contact them to see what they might be able to offer the Commission to hand out at this year's Township events. Dan spoke in reference to the commitment required to host a table at the various events. Pat said that she has contacted the NJ Forestry and is waiting for a return call, however she has done research on their website and it states that they have very limited inventory of trees available. She suggested, next year that the Commission contact them earlier in the year and offered to reach out to Rutgers as well. Dan said, tomato plants have been very successful because they are not as big of a commitment as the trees. Maryann offered to contact the EPA and report back to what they may be able to offer to the Commission. Dan mentioned how the Commission has also participated in the Halloween Parade in the past, noting what is required to participate in that event. He spoke regarding the Community Clean Up day that is sponsored by Clean Communities and what is required to participate, noting he will find out if the monetary benefit that is given to each organization who participates would also be available to the Environmental Protection Commission, since they are a Township Commission and report back.

OLD BUSINESS

- Community Garden

Dan stated that he had contacted Stu Gerstein, the gentleman who took care of the Community Gardens last year, who advised that there are 20 small plots, 13 large plots, 4 ADA plots and 5 shared community plots with a couple plots left over. Mr. Gerstein stated, he does not feel there is a need at this time to enlarge the garden. Matt shared pictures that he took with his drone to show the area and plots used for the garden. Dan read aloud Mr. Gerstein's email reply that addressed all of the Commission's questions and concerns relating to the Community Garden, where he noted that he feels everything is good as it is and if he needs help in the future, he will reach out to the Commission. A discussion ensued regarding the Community Gardens.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Cncl. McKinney asked about the status of the basin project that was discussed at the last meeting, to which Dan stated that Anthony was going to ask for the status from the Open Space Advisory Committee. Secretary, Jenn Harbison advised that the project was not an Open Space project but a project of the previous Environmental Protection Commission.

Dan spoke regarding the elementary schools' spring festivals, noting that this is another way for the Commission to get involved in the community by attending the festivals and educating the kids on recycling.

Anthony spoke in reference to Earth Day and asked if it would be possible for the Commission to visit one of the local elementary schools and talk to the kids about Earth Day. He volunteered to contact Radix Elementary School and will report back with his findings at the next meeting.

Dan stated that he is reluctant in the Commission hosting their own events and would rather participate and partner in events hosted by the Township or Clean Communities, noting the security issues.

A discussion followed regarding the Community Clean Up Day and what is involved and required.

Crystal asked for an explanation of what Tree City is, to which Dan explained and noted the benefits of the Township being a part of the program.

Dan said he will reach out to the Township Planner about placing wildflowers in the Township owned retention basins. A discussion followed regarding the basins.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Patricia Purdy made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Matthew Urquhart. With no one from the public present and/or wishing to speak, Matthew Urquhart made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Carl Wise and approved by all members of Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Patricia Purdy made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of January 23, 2023. The motion was seconded by Crystal Fox and approved by all members of Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Environmental Protection Commission meeting is Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:30pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Environmental Protection Commission Meeting of January 23, 2023 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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