

**Readington Township
Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2020**

OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hendrickson at 7:00 p.m. stating that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

Members in Attendance

Stephen Foster
Neil Hendrickson
Jonathan Heller
Robert Becker
Susan Masinda
Jerry Cook
Jeff Charney
Todd Terricone

Members Absent

Judith Tutela

Minutes

Mr. Foster moved, and Mr. Heller seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for January 7, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

LOI/Freshwater Wetlands

Letter of Interpretation Application- Matson Construction Inc.- Block 5 Lot 8 -Noted
Ground Water Remedial Action Permit & Soil Remedial Action Permit- Stropa Inc. -414 Route 22 West-Noted
FHA/FWW Individual Permit Application- PSE&G – Branchburg Switch to Pleasant Valley Switch Project-Noted

AOC (Areas of Concern)

No Further Action Letter- 550 Gallon #2 Heating Oil Underground Storage Tank System- Block 51 Lot 62- 12 Campbells Brook Road-Noted

Correspondence

Letter from ANJEC dated 1/21/20-Noted

New Business

Trex Recycling

Valerie Zanardi, librarian from Whitehouse Elementary School was present and explained that the Whitehouse Elementary School would like to partner with the Environmental Commission on the Trex Recycling Challenge. She explained that schools across the nation compete to collect plastic film. The goal is to collect 500 pounds. There are several different types of plastic film that can be accepted such as grocery bags, bread bags, ziploc bags etc. The program will be promoted through the newspaper, social media, flyers and school communication. A recycling bin would be placed in the municipal building for collection. It is a great way to educate students on the importance of recycling. By partnering with the community, the school will receive a bench made from recycled plastic. Locations where other bins could be located was also discussed.

Mr. Foster moved, and Mr. Heller seconded a motion for the Environmental Commission to partner with Whitehouse Elementary School for the Trex Recycling Challenge. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Stormwater General Permit

It was noted that there will be changes and updates to the stormwater regulations. Ms. Masinda noted there are also many workshops available.

Well Testing Recap

Mr. Foster noted that the results are not in yet but will be ready for a presentation at the March meeting. He explained that 220 people participated this year and lead tests were also offered for people not on wells. It was noted that various ways to get more participation for 2020 will be discussed.

Plastics Ban Ordinance

Chair Hendrickson noted that the Little Silver Ordinance would be a good model to use because it also includes straws or Styrofoam. It was discussed that paper bags might be a good solution to use in the interim before the ordinance goes into effect. It was suggested that a feasible date for the Ordinance to go into effect would January 1, 2021 to be able to get the word out and allow businesses adequate time to prepare.

Chair Hendrickson requested that everyone review the Little Silver Ordinance and provide any suggestions for additions or modifications that may be necessary so that a draft can be completed and sent to the Township Committee.

Mr. Cook moved, and Mr. Heller seconded a motion to use the Little Silver Plastic Ordinance as a model to prepare a draft plastic ordinance to present to the Township Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Application Review Process Update

Chair Hendrickson noted that applications that are before the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board will be reviewed by the Environmental Commission once the application has been deemed complete. An Environmental Commission subcommittee can be formed to review the applications beforehand to identify potential issues or concerns.

There was a brief discussion about recycling. Mr. Becker provided an update from a meeting he attended at the county and noted that the county is working to improve the process at the Petticoat Lane recycling center.

It was noted that the details of the tree ordinance were still being finalized.

Chair Hendrickson read a draft memo to the Planning Board recommending that this year's planning priorities also include looking at current zoning along the Township's stream corridors to ensure that any future development maintain or increase the water quality.

Mr. Foster moved, and Mr. Cook seconded a motion for Chair Hendrickson to send the memo to the Planning Board regarding the Environmental Commission's concerns regarding future development and the effects on the Township's stream water quality. The motion carried unanimously

Mr. Becker provided an update on grants as follows:

Date	Title	Objective	\$	\$ Cost	Due Date	Status
11/29/2019	ANJEC	Pollinator Garden	\$1,000		5/5/2019	Awarded
11/29/2019	Electric Vehicle Charging Station	Two port charging station	\$6,000		Open	Submitted
11/29/2019	Roots for Rivers	Tree planting in riparian buffer Holland Brook 523	\$3,750	in kind	12/31/2019	Awarded
11/29/2019	Community Forestry Stewardship	Any aspect of community tree program	\$10,000-\$20,000	In kind	5/29/2020	
11/29/2019	Complete Streets	Assessment and recommendations of street configuration relating to walkability, safety	data		12/20/2019	Submitted
11/29/2019	New Jersey Clean Energy	Baseline study of current use of energy by municipality to establish future goals for improvement	data		Open	Processing
1/3/2020	Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Incentive	\$4000 toward electric vehicle purchase and \$1500 dual port level 2 station	As indicated		4/15/20	
1/3/2020	Roots for Rivers	Tree planting in riparian buffer Bloy Farm 319H	\$7,123		12/13/2019	Awarded
1/15/2020	ANJEC	Open Space Stewardship Projects	\$1,500		4/6/2020	
1/22/2020	American Water	Environmental	\$10,000		3/31/2020	
2/2/2020	Sustainable Jersey	PSEG Grants encourage collaboration between town and schools	\$10,000		3/31/2020	

Site Plan Review and Comment

PNC Bank, Appl# ZB18-004 - Block 5 Lot 6- 432 US Highway 22 West
Preliminary & Final Site Plan with Variances -Improvements to Parking Lot

Chair Hendrickson gave an overview of the application and explained that the PNC Bank is proposing to add some additional parking. The plans were reviewed, and it was noted that there are some

concerns with the planting plan. Chair Hendrickson made notes regarding the planting plan and will forward them to the secretary to send to Board of Adjustment.

Adjournment

It was the consensus of the committee members to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Lehberger

Secretary to the Environmental Commission