

EWING TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Board Room at Ewing Senior Center
999 Lower Ferry Road
Ewing, NJ 08628
June 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER - OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT:

Chair Joe Mirabella called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. He began by reading the following statement: "The notice requirements provided for in the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied. The Ewing Township Council properly gave notice of this meeting in the resolution on January 1, 2015 which was filed with the Clerk and posted in the Ewing Township Municipal Complex, and has been sent to the Times of Trenton and the Trentonian newspapers."

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Dan Burke
Ann Farnham
Lee Farnham
John Hoegl
Joe Mirabella
Joanne Mullaney
Jo Ann Povia

ABSENT:

Jeff Passe

III. MEMBERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC:

Charles Maack, Jennifer Keyes Maloney, Council Member

IV. Minutes:

May minutes approved.

V. Chair Joe Mirabella

VI. Project Reviews Update

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Planning Board and Site Review:
Planning Board

Ann Farnham, Site Review, Dan Burke,

Planning Board: Dan reported on the 7-11 site expansion proposal: Trash collection relocation, sight triangle issue, and increased number of trees were addressed; **Medex:** a variance is requested for 3 signs; there was an issue with overhanging trees, and lot consolidation approval and variances.

Site Review: Ann said that minutes were not available for a meeting which she missed on 5/25. **Sierra Office Park** was discussed and the EEC comments had not been addressed, so the Committee recommended implementing them and returning to Site Review. Chuck Latini made some landscape suggestions as well. **Bregenzer**, a warehouse proposal, had only a very preliminary plan and they will be back for the next Site Review Meeting.

b) **Green Team** John Hoegl, Joe Mirabella, Joanne Mullowney
Joanne reported that the Garden Tour, a tour of 13 Ewing Gardens had been quite successful and \$450 was collected and split three ways between organizers. This will be used to pay for the Scarecrow Contest in October. This was a collaboration of the Green Team, the West Trenton Garden Club, and the Girl Scouts. Joanne projected slides of the Tour later.

c) **Johnson Trolley Trail** Lee Farnham, Dan Burke
The ribbon cutting for the Johnson Trolley Trail was held on June 4 with members of the public, Mayor Steinman, State Senator Shirley Turner and Jim McManimon attending. Mayor Steinman, Senator Turner and Lee Farnham spoke. Refreshments were served under a tent. The trail planting, done by Dan Burke and his men from Rock Paper Gardens and the boulder with the plaque were admired. An extension of the Recreational Trails Grant to June, 30, 2016 was given as the dedication was done on Trail Day. There was a discussion about watering and weed control and finishing the painting of the bridge. The JTT has been a project since 2011. On expenses for JTT, Ewing Township will ask DEP to shift some grant money not spent in some areas to other areas where there is not enough.

d) **Plant of the Month** Ann Farnham
The June Plant of the Month was Norway Maple, *Acer Platanoides*.

e) **Website, etc.** Joanne Mullowney
Joanne said that she had received a \$99.00 renewal fee for the web site and that the Township would pay it.

f) **ANJEC** Lee Farnham

Lee reported that the ANJEC Annual Meeting would be on September 30 at Mercer Community College. Rush Holt will be a speaker.

g) **Invasives**

No discussion

VII. Old Business

a) **Pipeline News:** Jo Ann Povia

Jo Ann said that she had talked with Mike Pizarro from the Watershed. They discussed detention basins and the fact that builders are supposed to take all possible measures to handle runoff before a basin is proposed and that municipalities can do more in this respect. Mr. Pizarro will be talking about demonstration basins. Lee Farnham said that Fish and Wildlife used to have funds to help in restoring habitat in drainage basins.

b) **Watson Park Update:** Dan Burke

Dan said that they are attempting to obtain plant donations for the park. The bare root donations were not accepted as their installation requires more expertise than the planting volunteers would have had.

c) **Community Forestry Management Plan:** Lee Farnham

Lee spoke to Bill Brash, who is willing to do a new one to meet the September 9 deadline.

d) **ERI:** Lee Farnham

The ERI was revised and updated (maps in particular) by Chuck Latini.

e) **Green Team Points**

The EGT has submitted for Sustainable Jersey recertification with actions worth a total of 480 points. If these were all accepted our application would qualify for Silver certification, a big move forward from our last (and first) certification at Bronze level. The Ewing Environmental Commission will be contributing the following actions (points) to that effort:

- ERI (20 points)

- Site Review (10 points)
- Having an EC (10 Points)
- Community Forestry Management Plan (20 Points)

The EGT's Community Visioning from 2013/2014 was worth 45 points in total. Besides his update of the ERI, Chuck Latini will also contribute 3 Brownfields write ups:

- Inventory and Prioritization
- Reuse Planning
- Marketing

and a Transit Oriented Development Supportive Zoning action.

John Hoegl reported on a meeting with Princeton AC (and others?) to find out if they would provide audits cheaply enough for good participation. Do they make any money on retrofits? There will be an outreach for community participation: there are two events planned at Hollowbrook and a presentation at Kiwanis and at Jennifer Keyes Maloney's house. There will be a community wide meeting to offer assistance. There may be grants for Direct Install for smaller businesses, municipalities and churches.

f) EEC / Cups & Much More Lee Farnham

Lee wanted to know how many and how much to spend before ordering any EEC cups. It was suggested that water bottles as well as UV Resistant caps would be a good addition.

g) Updated Membership List: Jo Ann Povia

Lee said that he would forward the necessary forms to Jo Ann Povia

VIII. New Business

a) Monthly Walk / Bike Rides: Joe Mirabella and Jo Ann Povia

Jo Ann and Joe proposed a monthly or bi-monthly walk-bike ride early (7 AM) Saturday mornings for the summer with a schedule change for the fall. Jo Ann handed out drafts of the plan with proposed dates and locations. The project will be tested before a final draft is finalized, available for the web site and advertising.

b) **Scudder Falls Bridge/ No Net Loss Update** Lee Farnham

Bill Brash said that an application has not been submitted for No Net Loss from the Delaware River Bridge Commission. Dan said that the bridge reportedly has structural issues.

c) **FMC Dollars for Doers** Lee Farnham

Lee will contact Bruce Black to have him inquire about Duncan Aust's availability for a photograph with Mayor Steinman.

IX. Emerald Ash Borer

Joanne reported that the Ewing had received a \$20K PSE&G Foundation grant thru Sustainable Jersey for work developing a plan to deal with the EAB in Ewing. It has an 18 month deadline. It includes developing a management plan for the Township including the 890 identified ash trees from the Rutgers RAST survey, identification of potential partners to help us deal with the issue, outreach to the public, and concludes with planting of 100 bare root saplings next spring.

X. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence

IX. Adjournment

The business of the Commission having concluded, it was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously at 8:35 that the meeting be adjourned.

Joe Mirabella, Chair

Ann Farnham, Acting Secretary

Attachments: None