

Ewing Township Environmental Commission Agenda
Monthly meeting in Board Room, Senior Center
999 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ
6:30PM on August 16, 2016

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, 2016 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: Joe Mirabella, Dan Burke, Lee Farnham, Joann Povia, Ann Farnham, Jeff Passe
Excused: Joanne Mullowney, John Hoegl

III. Introduction of members of general public. Michelle Pitts

IV. Potential New Member: Charlie Maack, with a strong background in water resources, would have to be appointed by the mayor, thus must be interviewed by town administrators. We will send a letter to the mayor asking that Bruce Black be removed for multiple absences.

V. Approval of minutes of July meeting by acclamation.

VI. Committee reports:

a. Planning Board and Site Review: Dan Burke and Ann Farnham. 1) There is a request for approval to use a corner property with a new design but has not yet updated the landscape plan. It was approved under the condition that the EEC suggestions are followed. 2) Aldi proposal was approved under similar conditions. 3) Master Plan and Environmental Resource Inventory will be combined in the future.

Site Review: 1) Ricky's Auto Repair on Stokes Avenue needs screening, 2) GM site plan is extensive and detailed, but few and monoculture plants are listed. Ann is working on envisioning how the trees and buildings will be organized. (Many trees are sickly.) 3) Wawa site has few trees remaining that will probably not survive. Inspection probably did not take place.

b. Green Team: Joe Mirabella: A celebration was held in honor of Green Team Silver achievement.

c. Johnson Trolley Trail: Lee Farnham, Dan Burke. Plants are thriving, as are weeds. Some plants were damaged. Graffiti on the bridge was painted over. Dan will have the bridge painted and invasive species removed on Friday. A summary must be submitted to the funding agencies. Old pictures are requested as are anecdotes regarding cleanup.

d. Plant of Month: Ann Farnham. Oriental Bittersweet, an invasive groundcover was highlighted as a "Do not plant."

e. Website, etc: Not discussed due to JM's absence.

f. ANJEC: Lee: ANJEC speakers and sessions for 9/30 at Mercer County CC were announced. Attendance is encouraged. CEUs should be calculated and reported.

g. ETRA: (Ewing Township Redevelopment Agency). Joe: No meetings have been held.

VII. Old business

a. Pipeline News: Jo Ann Povia: 70% of landowners will not allow access to their property. Comments are solicited for public meetings. Rallies are being held throughout the week. The argument will be made that NJ does not need more gas. Also, environmental impact statements are incomplete. Changes are needed at the federal level to decline permits. Congresswoman Watson Coleman has tried to help. Penn East is pushing hard. Cumulative effect of small approvals is a concern.

b. Watson Park update: Dan Burke: No news.

c. Community Forestry Management Plan: Lee: Township grant application has not been responded to yet. CSIP Tree Inventory grant request was unsuccessful.

d. ERI: Lee: Those with spare time can compare the old and new documents.

e. EEC/ Cups & Much More: Lee: Discussion postponed.

f. Updated Membership List: Jo Anne: distributed for updating.

g. EEC Annual Report: Lee: Report will be sent off unless anyone else comments.

h. Monthly Walk/Bike Rides: Joe & Jo Anne, Changed to every two weeks. Weather has not cooperated. Suggestions for destinations and pathways are welcomed.

i. Scudder Falls Bridge/No Net Loss update: Lee: Chuck has sent a report to the Delaware River Bridge Commission with list of parks and photos where 642 trees would go. Shade trees, ornamental, and evergreens are in the mix. A committee to consult with Chuck will be formed to further advise him. A contractor maintains the trees for the first two years, so we should make comments soon, especially regarding tree diameter.

j. FMC Dollars for Doers. Joe: Still waiting for a response.

VIII. New business

a. Trees have been taken down on Lower Ferry Road possibly related to the airport expansion. Lee will contact the company that sought input last year for more information.

b. Old trees on property of Trenton Psychiatric might be revisited.

IX. Correspondence: None

X. Adjournment at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Mirabella, Chair

Jeff Passe, Secretary