

Ewing Township Environmental Commission
Monthly meeting in Board Room, Senior Center
999 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ
6:30PM on July 19, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER-OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT:

Chair Joe Mirabella called the meeting to order at 6:39 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: Present: Dan Burke, Ann Farnham, Lee Farnham, Joe Mirabella, Joanne Mullowney, Jo Ann Povia.

John Hoegl and Jeff Passe were excused.

III. Introduction of members of general public: Charley Maack and Michelle Pitts.

IV. Approval of minutes for the June 16, 2016 meeting.

Committee reports:

A. Planning Board and Site Review (Dan Burke and Ann Farnham)

1. Dan said the PB approved the big Aldi extension, variances included.
2. Site review: Agape-Child Care Sense was there for the third time. Lighting, setbacks and a landscape plan are still needed. Bergenzer Property needs sidewalks and much more.
3. Once again there was impassioned discussion about how ET ordinances need to be strengthened to require professionals **specific** to the subject (landscaping, horticulture) for plans, not just a "professional."

B. Organized Walks (JoAnn Povia): The first walk at Brearley House was cancelled due rotten weather. JoAnn then walked in Lawrenceville, but alone. A walk on Baldpate Mt., Pleasant Valley Rd. entrance, is scheduled for 0730 on Saturday, July 23.

C. Green Team (Joanne Mullowney, Joe Mirabella):

1. Sustainable Jersey Silver certification update: SJ has approved 340 points of the 350 needed; ten more points are required by the 9/11 deadline. Actions worth an additional 140 points were sent back to us with detailed instructions for revision. Having the Environmental Resource Inventory (20 points) and Conservation Element as parts of the Master Plan could put us over the top, and Joanne will work with Chuck Latini, Jr. on that. The award ceremony for Silver will be at the annual meeting of the League of Municipalities, in Atlantic City this fall.
2. The GT bike ride on September 24 is going well. There are new sponsors.
3. SJ \$20k grant award to the Green Team: Bill Brash (Certified Forester) will work with us to create partnerships to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Included in the grant is money for 100 bare root saplings too. Discussion about the role the EEC should play in promoting a response to the EAB followed.
4. GT Energy update from John Hoegl: "The GT Energy sub-committee received a revised proposal from Princeton Air for Township-wide residential energy audits for at \$99/audit, and a

revised rebate threshold of \$2,000 (the minimum upgrade cost that rebates the homeowner's \$99). The committee has recommended acceptance of this offer, and the project is now in the hands of administration and Council. It is our understanding that final contract negotiations will be handled by township attorney Maeve Cannon, on behalf of Ewing."

"As part of the GT energy outreach action items, I'll make energy incentive presentations to the Glendale Civic Assn on July 25, and to Kiwanis on July 28. The presentations will include an overview of BPU sponsored financial incentives available for Ewing residents and businesses. A follow-up township-wide work session is being planned for September, at which the contractor and BPU rep will be available to provide detailed energy project guidance for participants."

D. Johnson Trolley Trail (Dan Burke and Lee Farnham):

1. Dan has been watering the plants, trees and shrubs consistently, with good results. Weeds are thriving, and there are aphids on the right side of the Asclepias! The Township doesn't have the manpower or time to do this. He's trying to arrange the schedule of his employees so that the bridge painting can be finished.
2. Lee said the Township request to DEP to adjust the amounts of grant money in each category to more closely match the expenses had been approved. Next up will undoubtedly be a report on the project for DEP.

E. Plant of the Month (Ann Farnham):

1. Burning Bush is July's choice. Ornamental Bittersweet is next, having prevailed over English Ivy, Mimosa and Tree of Heaven. This is a popular article.

F. Website (Joanne Mullaney):

1. PULEEEZ get stories to her now that she's paid \$99 for another year (the insatiable hunger of social media looms larger). She's thinking about putting some info about Yardmaps on the site (a Cornell project associated with FeederWatch).

G. Zoning Board of Review (Joe Mirabella):

1. The GM site is a 12 year project with housing plans calling for different designs of around 1,000 units, all rentals. Parts of the property that are under site remediation can't be used for housing. Twenty percent of the housing will be low-cost.
2. Naval Weapons Center: It is rumored that a big box store of international renown will be a tenant (who remembers the presentation by Lowe's years ago, when they said that 40 of their US locations were on land under remediation)?

H. Pipelines (JoAnn Povia):

1. The PennEast project is dragging out, the longer the better. New York State has denied a pipeline based on the Clean H2O Act (only NY & NJ can do that). Bonnie Watson Coleman, our U.S. Representative, has introduced legislation requiring that pipeline projects be looked at as a whole, rather than individually.

New Business:

- A. Jo Ann Povia tells us about a new Mercer County initiative: Mercer County at Play, in which matching grants, up to \$250k with a 50/50 match between MC and a Township, may be given for Active Recreation for kids areas. Check it out at mercercounty.org. If Townships combine efforts, then it's 100% funded by Mercer County!!! (Scribe's note: which would you prefer?)

- B. Items not covered, but that will be, at next meeting: New ERI review, Annual Report comments by EEC members, CSIP grant update, CFMP #2 update, FMC Dollars for Doers award with Bruce Black, No Net Loss update on Scudder Falls Bridge Project, You're #1 website review for order of promotional material, PLUS scheduling the annual appearance of Ms. Maddie Mirabella, the only known NJ Water Chestnut Retriever in existence. Be there!!

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned before they kicked us out, probably around 8:50PM.

Respectfully submitted on August 16, 2016:

Lee Farnham, Substitute Scribe

Joe Mirabella, Chair