



Eatontown Environmental Commission
47 Broad Street
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724

Anthony Talerico - Mayor

Laura Bagwell - Chair

MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting, held over Zoom, was called to order at 7: 02PM. Meeting held in compliance with open public meeting act

ROLL CALL:

| Member | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Laura Bagwell | x | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jess Buck | x | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Steve Fratini | x | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ken Kretsch | x | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mark Regan, Jr ¹ | x | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mark Regan, Sr ² | x | | | | | | | | | | | |

Guests: Wanna Smith,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(s):

Steve moved to approve December minutes; Ken seconded. Motion passed 4 - 0 with Mark and Jess abstaining..

AGENDA ITEMS:

| Issue | Discussion | Action |
|-------------------|--|--------|
| Open Meetings Act | Laura heard from the Borough Attorney that we are not required to follow the open meetings act. However, we will continue to be in compliance. | |

¹ Council liaison

² Planning Board liaison

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Record keeping responsibilities and electronic communications | Ken expressed concern with our responsibilities for keeping paper and electronic copies of our official correspondence. He is also concerned about using our personal email for discussing commission business and what would be our responsibility in the event that our emails concerning environmental commission business are either requested or subpoenaed. Steve proposed using GitHub as our electronic documents repository and its forum feature for our online discussions, replacing email. Ken and Laura expressed concerns about the level of privacy for the discussions and for the documents. We agree that only official, approved documents, which are public, would be kept on the GitHub | Ken is going to put together a list of questions that Mark will forward to the borough attorney. Ken will try the GitHub site. Ken and Steve will investigate privacy settings for GitHub discussions and documents |
| Samantha LaRocca | Laura introduced Samantha, from AmeriCorps, as being the NJ Watershed Ambassador for the Watershed Management Are #12. Samantha described the projects she works on with Monmouth County environmental commissions. She will help with stream clean-up and rain barrel workshops. | |
| Pollinator Garden Challenge | The Commission agrees that participating in the pollinator garden challenge as a demonstration and not as a competitor would be useful. The commission will also consider hosting a pollinator garden and rain barrel workshops possibly in cooperation with the Meet & Greet at the community garden | |
| Stormwater Ordinance | Laura reported that the Borough Council will consider the stormwater ordinance at their next meeting | Commission members agreed to review ordinance and forward recommendations to Laura |
| ANJEC | Laura reports that ANJEC needs information from us such as email and phone, and whether we prefer to receive their communications electronically or by paper mail. | |
| Heroes Trees | Mark reiterated his plan to ask the borough | Mark will contact the |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | arborist to take a look at the two trees for Doris and Warren planted in the Arboretum which Ken reports are in poor shape | appropriate people to look at these trees |
|--|--|---|

LIAISON REPORTS

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Complete Streets (Liaison: Steve) | Complete Streets meeting was held the previous Friday. Currently the committee is working on a grant to improve pedestrian and bicycle access at our parks this may include installation of mini libraries. | |
| Community Garden (Liaison: Steve) | <p>Lisa Wilson has stepped down as leader of the community garden. The garden is planning a meet-and-greet on April 17th. In addition, the garden challenge may entail an open-house with a walking tour of the area hosted by Complete Streets to be scheduled later in the year.</p> <p>Amongst the items being considered for the garden are beehives and additional pollinator gardens.</p> <p>The commission expressed a need for expert answers for gardening problems. It was suggested that the county Master Gardeners have such a program and can be used as a resource</p> | |
| FMERA (Liaison: Laura) | Laura reported that Mayor Tallerico appointed her as Eatontown's representative to the FMERA ESAC committee. She has already met with the committee, whose next meeting is February 1st. | |
| Green Team (Liaison: Laura) | Laura reported the green team has as its current goal to reach silver status as defined by Sustainable New Jersey. Currently we are at bronze. The green team is also considering an energy-efficiency outreach program | |
| Shade Tree (Liaison TBD) | Laura reported that we are looking for an individual to be our liaison with the shade tree. Commission we are actively searching for an additional person as we have room on the environmental commission for another member but if not she asked if one of the current members | |

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| | would be willing to be at the liaison | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|

COMMITTEE REPORTS

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Land Use (Chair: Ken) | <p>Laura reported that the planning board reviewed the Monmouth Plaza and the Fidelity Shopping Center projects at their January 5th meeting, considered most of our recommendations, and forwarded them to the applicant. These issues included EV parking, lighting, plant species, sidewalk, a bike rack.</p> <p>Ken recommended that we make as one of our goals to review the use of parking at Borough commercial facilities within possibility of recommending reducing the number of required parking spots</p> <p>The commission discussed the DCH Ford dealership plan to be presented to the planning board on February 1st. Laura requires comments by Wednesday so that she can have them to the Borough office by their deadline of Thursday. Items discussed included the lighting, landscaping (which appears to be pretty good) and the debris that's piling up in front of the parking lot along Marin way</p> | The commission will return their comments regarding DCH to Laura by Wednesday evening |
| Solid Waste | Mark, <i>filis</i> , reported a program in which a donation of 500 pounds of plastic trash will get us a park bench made out of recycled plastic for use in the Borough. Ken reported that there are already donated benches throughout the Borough including the Arboretum | |
| Air and Water | No report | |

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54PM. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00PM at Borough Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Kretsch
Eatontown Environmental Commission