

## **March 25, 2019 Environmental Commission Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Halpern, E. Duerr, McCarthy, Mounier, Russo, Stippick, Van  
Ostenbridge,  
ALTERNATES PRESENT: Cucunato, M. Duerr  
ASSOCIATES PRESENT R. Duerr  
LIAISONS PRESENT: Deegan  
GUESTS Al Wheeler

The March 25, 2019 meeting of the Township of Franklin Environmental Commission was called to order by Ms. Halpern at 7:38 pm in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building.

### **I. Minutes**

The February 25, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Van Ostenbridge, seconded by Mr. E. Duerr

### **II. Emergency Response and Management Report**

No report was given.

### **III. Guest Issues**

Mr. Wheeler expressed his concerns about Franklin Township's disorganization within municipal government and staffing. As an attorney, he thinks processes and procedures need to be standardized and made more efficient.

### **IV. Zoning and Planning Board Applications**

There were no applications.

### **V. Old Business**

#### **A. Piney Hollow Natural Area/Green Acres Grant**

Ms. Halpern reported that the application with the revisions requested by the Pinelands Commission has been completed and sent back to the Commission by our Engineers. If the Commission accepts the application now, there will need to be a hearing for public input. Then the Commission will meet again to vote on the application.

A cleanup on the property still needs to be done by Public Works, in consultation with the Engineers. It is suggested that this should occur before spring when leaf out occurs and it becomes more difficult to do. Receipts for where the removed trash goes will also be needed as part of the grant requirements.

The Jersey barriers are no longer at the first entrance on Unexpected Rd. and need to be replaced. Mr. Deegan will address this.

#### **B. ROSI (Recreational Open Space Inventory)**

Mr. Deegan reported that he and Ms. Flaim will be looking at the inventory and will try to get to this soon.

#### **C. Malaga Lake Park**

- A cleanup at the park is scheduled for April 14, 10 am to 1 pm. There is a

Stockton College group of 5 people that will attend (Graduate Physical Therapy Club).

- Tee shirts will be available for volunteers.
- Mr. Deegan advised that Ms. Flaim and Ms. Petsch-Wilson are taking on implementation of planning for Malaga Lake Park.
- In discussion, it was agreed that a crushed stone/cinder track would be preferable to an asphalt one.
- The drainage problem in the field near the playground could be intercepted. The existing pipe drains only 15 feet from the lake.
- Mr. Deegan was advised that there is a bad dog population problem along the nature trail and that we need to put dog waste pickup stations at entrances to the nature trail heads as well as other areas of the park. Various recent innovations were discussed including using rice paper bags instead of plastic and having a composting barrel right there which would eliminate the need for Public Works to pick up dog waste trash. Public Works will order four stations – two for the nature trail and two elsewhere in the park.
- Mr. Deegan also advised that there is a group in the Township that wants a dog park and wanted it at Forest Grove. That location is not viable. Mr. Deegan has done a lot of research on dog parks and offered the space at the park on Washington Ave. but the group was not interested. Now a part of Malaga Lake Park has been offered. This would consist of two sections, one for large and one for small dogs, of about 100' x 100' but it is dependent on the group raising funds to create this. There could be a fee for use collected via the license.
- Apparently people are walking their dogs on the Forest Grove track.
- Mr. Russo offered to make the signs needed at Malaga Lake Park directing people to the Nature Trail, if someone will send him the text for them.

## VI. New Business

**A. Commission Members:** Ms. Halpern reported that Sarah Johnson cannot attend EC meetings because of a schedule conflict. Evan Duerr has been appointed to fill that Commissioner seat. Mr. McGurk has also been unable to attend. Ms. M. Duerr is appointed as an Alternate in that seat.

**B. Bird Quest:** Bird Quest will occur on the first Saturday in May – May 4. In previous years we have contributed to the costs of Bird Quest. On a motion by Ms. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Russo, it was unanimously agreed to contribute \$100 to the Bird Quest fund.

The meeting place for turning in results and for lunch will be at Wheelabrator this year, rather than Scotland Run Park.

**C. Stormwater Projects:** Ms. Halpern distributed a list of the measures the Township must take to be in compliance with the stormwater rules. We need to see what the EC could most usefully conduct or sponsor. Points are awarded for various actions and programs and a total of 12 points/year is required.

The Rain barrel workshop at Triple Oaks would give three points. Ms. Cucunato is working on this and may be able to get the barrels donated. 15 – 20 people are

expected. We may need to move this to the Community Center because of limited space at Triple Oaks.

Ms. Cucunato could also do a stewardship activity – a stream assessment with volunteers, for a larger number of points.

Road cleanups are worth one point. Public Works will direct groups interested in cleanups to areas that we identify as needing that.

**D. Community Day 2019:** It was agreed that we should reuse the recycling exhibit that was created last year, since it was not taken apart and is stored in the Township building shed. We can update the themes with sustainability, for example by adding info on what not to buy, what options there are, where to obtain more eco-friendly products, etc. The theme might be more accurately expressed as “Reduce Your Footprint.”

- We could give out bamboo or reed straws, by the box. Hay Straw is a company that sells these and is willing to work with us. For a relatively cheap price, we could get 3000 of them.
- Jetty is a company that gives away stainless steel water bottles.
- BalloonsBlow.org tries to stop balloon releases. They produce stickers and pamphlets for distribution.
- Patagonia is a highly responsible company.

It was suggested that if anyone finds alternative products for personal use, that you buy them and bring them to a meeting.

Evan Duerr reported that he has researched “reducing your shopping footprint” and will continue that investigation. He will compile a list from it.

**D. Riggins compression stations** Ms. Halpern expressed concern about the release of fumes from the Riggins compression stations in Malaga, which are next to residential housing. NJDEP is creating a program to regulate these emissions because they are often excessive. In addition, vehicles that run on compressed natural gas do not release less air contamination than conventional fuels, which means that they don’t reduce global warming.

**VII. Mail Review/Conferences/Announcements** – A letter from NJDEP concerning a well restriction area for the FMC site (a Known Contaminated Site) stated that the area is revised to add another area on a neighboring property.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

Upon motion by Mr. Stippick, seconded by Mr. Russo, and unanimously approved the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne McCarthy