



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES OF March 22, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:39 PM

Reading of Open Public Meetings Act Statement by Chairman
I hereby declare that notice has been given to the Herald Times and posted on the bulletin board of the Middle Township Municipal Building, stating the time and place of the following meeting, as required in P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the State of New Jersey. (Sunshine Law).

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS: Vilma Pombo, Betsy Haskin, Larissa Smith, Josh Nemeth, Jim Amenhauser, Amanda DeVico,

ABSENT: Dawn Stimmel, Rachel Shepherd

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Approval of Minutes – February 15, 2017

On Motion By: Betsy Haskins

Seconded By: Larissa Smith

No “Communications” were available. Amanda DeVico was welcomed as a new member.

Unfinished Business:

Monarch Butterflies – Township approval for community plantings: Vilma went to the 4 PM Township Committee Work Session on March 20th to request that space be made available for a Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator garden at the Ockie Wisting Rec site. Mayor Clark mentioned that he had been there recently and met a man walking the trails who requested that the Township save all of the milkweed growing on the site also. Mayor Clark discussed this with the members of the committee and they agreed to preserve this space permanently and maybe put up signs to prevent mowing permanently. Vilma also brought up the fact that since the Environmental Commission’s Green Team has no budget to provide public demonstrations e.g. Rain Barrels, she requested if they could possibly find some funding. Mayor Clark advised Committee would look into the request.

Sustainable Jersey Certification – Township Committee has selected Nancy Sittenari to assume responsibility for this project.

New Business

Earth Day at the Zoo – Application has been submitted to the County and accepted by Linda Crumbock. In addition, we have been approved by the NJ Forest Restoration for delivery of 500 trees, specifically suited to our area (as well as storage for an extended period. Trees will arrive at Woodbine Public Works on March 31st. Vilma will pick them up.

Landscaping Ordinances – Vilma presented sample ordinances from the State of NJ and a few communities and guidance from the NJ Audubon Society as as information from other sources, which included invasive species. Josh Nemeth volunteered to go over the material and come up with a sample ordinance.

Idling Ordinance – Vilma suggested that this ordinance (which is our second request to Committee) be postponed until we have finished with the Landscape Ordinance. All members agreed.

Other – Larissa Smith suggested that we file a grant request for a “Pollinator Garden” through ANJEC and requested comments from the group. All were in favor. Josh Nemeth agreed to help Larissa with the completion of the grant application.

Reports and Announcements

Green Creek Estuary – follow up meeting to be rescheduled in April per Brian O’Conner at the Cape May Co. Planning Board. Betsy Haskin advised that the subject came up at Oyster Farmers/NJ Audubon meeting regarding the threats to Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs. She stated that the NJDEP is looking at 2 sluice gates with roads through the marsh to each one. At this time, there is no money to complete the project.

The Wetlands Institute will be holding the last “Lunch and Learn” program on Native Plants for Landscaping and Habitat Restoration by Dr. Lenore Tedesco on March 24th at 11:45 am. They will also have a Native Plant Sale on May 13th & 14th from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification from NJDEP Site Remediation Program at 3 sites in Middle Township: 207 School Lane, Rio Grande – clean up pending; Gravens Thorofare Waterway – Diesel Fuel released into the water; and Powerline by Beaver Swamp on Goshen-Swainton Rd.

Meeting adjourned (time) 7:40 PM
On Motion By: Josh Nemeth
Seconded By: Jim Amenhauser
Motion passed to adjourn meeting.