



**MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2011**

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM by Chairman, Steve Russell

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: Chairman Russell, Steve Atzer, Christine Kobielnik, Vilma Pombo, Lillian Armstrong, Dawn Stimmel

ABSENT: Gary Farrow, Rachel Reed, Bob Jackson, James Amenhauser, Liz Terenik

Also in attendance: Phil Broder, resident of Rio Grande

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Approval of Minutes – March 23, 2011

On motion by: Lillian Armstrong Seconded by: Steve Atzert

Minutes were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED:

- Correspondence from Waters Edge - Application being submitted to the NJDEP-General Permit #8, Proposed Single Family Dwelling-Block 120, Lot 14; Applicants are Sam and Regina King-Project #658
- Shop Rite Earth 2010 Newsletter
- Copy of Pollution Equipment News

SUSTAINABLE NEW JERSEY REPORT-LIZ TERENIK

No report given this month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Russell stated he had sent correspondence to Township Committee and the Township Administrator on the Energy Audit recommending a 2 year payback on:

1. Motion detectors on lights;
2. Township using T8 or T5 lighting.

This is a little more expensive in the beginning, but will have a 2 year payback. Jill Zarharchuck and Liz Terenik are working on a grant for this. The Township will be responsible for 25% of the cost.

- Plans for FCF Realty and Coventry Place, Canals in Rio Grande, were passed around. Chairman Russell stated variance being applied for by Miracle Fitness for an addition. They are getting more in compliance with Township regulations on parking and set backs.
- Lillian Armstrong handed out 4 documents related to pesticide free zones, one of which listed all NJ Townships that adopted pesticide free zones. Noted that in 2002, schools passed an act against pesticides used in schools. Lillian also stated there is a Pledge that local governments can take to become pesticide free in our parks.
- Draft Resolution was discussed for consideration-as a group what would be the Commission's next step.
 - Chairman Russell said we would make recommendation to Township Committee on what we would like to see in resolution, i.e. herbicide integrated into resolution.
 - Lillian Armstrong suggested throwing weeds in with the pesticides.
 - Chairman Russell would like all to review Resolution and give their comments. Once this is done, we will present to Committee for adoption.
 - Steve Atzert suggested we look at the Save Barnegat Bay Resolution for language.
 - Lillian Armstrong stated we need to educate people.
- Christine Kobielnik said she will have information at the next meeting regarding high school students who may want to sit in on some of our meetings.
- Steve Atzert stated some high schools have service hour requirements.
- Chairman Russell spoke of a letter from a DelHaven resident who applied for State Wetlands Delineation. Requested Dawn check into this.
- Vilma Pombo has a lot of brochures for Earth Day, but still needs information about the Sustainable New Jersey. Said she will call ANJEC.
- Chairman Russell announced the Township's shredding day will be on April 30th from 9AM to 12PM at the public works yard.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Lillian Armstrong suggested working on a Mission Statement. We should get some recommendations together.
- Chairman Russell stated that once adopted, we should put information once a month or every other month as to what the Committee is doing,

COMMENTS:

- Chairman Russell spoke of solar farms. Said the largest solar farm is being built 50 miles from her in Pilesgrove. There are 10 to 15 acres of nothing but solar panels. They will power 5100 homes. There is 0 cost to the Township. The company takes most of the credit, but some credit is given to the Township and landowners.
- Lillian Armstrong said there was a lot of concern about run off of water and erosion-was viable farmland.

- Chairman Russell said it would also work in landfills.
- Steve Atzert said also on rooftops.
- Phil Broder advised that solar panels were not taxable and could be good or bad.
- Vilma Pombo spoke of wind farms. She gave out information on how they work.
- Steve Atzert will send email about his ANJEC Training Session, stating a good job had been done with the training.
- Vilma Pombo questioned our need of bylaws. She said ANJEC has them
- Chairman Russell said he will check with Liz Terenik on that. Said we need to start educating the public on environmental issues. We need to come up with some alternative ideas. We do not want to get bogged down, we need to focus as a Committee.
- Steve Atzert commented that he hoped the plants being planted beside the municipal building are native to the region.

1.) Meeting adjourned 7:29 PM