



**MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2011**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Steve Atzert, filling in for Chairman 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: Steve Atzer, Rachel Reed , Christine Kobielnik, Vilma Pombo, James Amenhauser, Lillian Armstrong, Liz Terenik, Jeff Schafer, Dawn Stimmel

ABSENT: Steve Russell, Gary Farrow

GUESTS: Jim Pickering, Municipal Solicitor
Jody Carrara, Project Director of ANJEC

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2011

On motion by: Rachel Reed Seconded by: Jim Amenhauser
Minutes were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED:

- Application submitted by NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife for property at Siegtown Road, CMCH – Block 96.01, Lot 16, Middle Township, Cape May County – per Jim Amenhauser, nothing presented on this yet at the Zoning Board.
- Steve Atzert-Report from March 26 ANJEC Training he attended – commented on field trip and training he went to....stated most interesting part was How to lie with Maps.
- Steve Atzert-Native Plant Ordinance – will be looking at this down the road. Liz Terenik stated this is applies to work that the Township should do on its own, and Steve Atzert added it applies to everyone.
- Liz Terenik-Email regarding Sustainable Jersey Action Updates and Application Deadlines
- Site Plan Submission Transmittal to Planning Board-Fran and Monica LLC-310 N Railroad Avenue, Rio Grande – See comments below under Sustainable New Jersey Report.
- Pinelands Watch

SUSTAINABLE NEW JERSEY REPORT-LIZ TERENIK

Liz Terenik spoke about the Sustainable Jersey Program Coop effort. The municipality gets points for certain actions and there are 118 actions we can pick from. To date, Middle Township has done 9 activities. We need to pick actions that appeal to us and complete them. Liz will do a Resolution or Ordinance and then submit to Sustainable Jersey.

She has completed a draft for a wind ordinance and is working on an Environmental Assessment Ordinance.

Stated we need to create a green team and that should include some Township employees, like Andrew Smith the Public Works Director. We need to pick actions that we would like to work on. Some suggested were:

- Green Maintenance Policy – The EC would draft a Resolution and present to Township Committee to pass.
- Complete Streets Policy – this would go to the Planning and Zoning Boards. This would also qualify us to get grant money from the DOT. Liz will work on this with the Township Engineer.
- Community Education Outreach – Vilma Pombo will work on this. If an event is to be held, we would need to show proof via a press release or a flyer, pictures showing how many people attended. Some items discussed for this is water conservation, in which Vilma said she would like to see a Press Release done stating people on odd side of street water on odd # days and people on even side water on even # days. Educating people on this would be a better way to go.
- Community Teaching Garden - a community garden, either a vegetable or native plant garden was suggested, but we would need somewhere to put one. It was suggested contacting AC Electric to use some of their property. Other areas discussed were the SW corner of Rt 9 & 47, the MLK Center, possible undersized lots in Whitesboro, Goshen Complex. Raised planter gardens were also discussed Safe Routes to School
- Sustainable Land Use Pledge-Steve Atzert will check into this. We may be able to use new zoning we are doing and possibly adopt a Shared Parking Ordinance.
- Energy Audit – we have one building done and we need to do another. Liz will be doing a Press Release on this. Steve Russell and Jeff Schafer.
- Clean up of beaches or other areas. Areas suggested were along Rt 9, Railroad area in Rio Grande, areas along the bike path. Jim Amenhauser will find an area and get permission to do clean up in the fall. It was suggested we involve the schools. Possibly do this Columbus Day or National Make A Difference Day, which is the last weekend in October. Jeff Schafer inquired about road sponsorship. Jody Carrara stated you had to apply, fill out a lot of forms, which you then have to sign off on, and the road is then your responsibility from there on to keep up the maintenance of keeping the area clean.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Draft of Resolution Supporting Integrated Pest Management discussed. Jim Pickering, Municipal Solicitor explained that it is ok for the EC to make recommendations to be passed on to Township Committee to consider and/or pass. The Resolution was voted on: On Motion By Jim Amenhauser and Seconded By Lillian Armstrong, the Resolution was passed. It was agreed that Resolution will be given to

Mark Mallett, Business Administrator, to be placed on a Work Session agenda for Committee to discuss.

Jim Pickering discussed the EC Mission Statement. He discussed the State Statute with the committee members. He said the Mission Statement powers the EC has are given by the State Statute. The Mission Statement was voted on: On Motion By Lillian Armstrong and Seconded By Jim Amenhauer, the Mission Statement was passed. The Mission Statement will be placed on the EC website through the Township.

Jim Pickering also advised we cannot take letters, petitions or affidavits to Planning or Zoning Boards, someone must appear in person.

Discussed letter that was to be drawn up to EC in Cape May County about ANJEC Training – letter has been sent to Chairman Russell for approval – have not heard back from him yet as to whether approved or not.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy – Steve Atzert stated he is going to work on this if anyone would like to help.
- Liz Terenik stated there are grants available through Walmart we might be interested in applying for (\$1,000; \$10,000 or \$25,000). There are also a series of workshops regarding Green Mapping Systems; June 29th-Monmouth; June 30th –Webinar.

COMMENTS:

Jody Carrara handed out information on Storm Water Management. Jody stated that Solar farms are big in Gloucester and Salem Counties.

Vilma feels that 4-H Fair not a good outreach tool for residents to educate them on environmental issues. Best bet would be the Harvest Fest.

Meeting adjourned 8:14 PM