

**Middle Township Environmental Commission
Minutes of May 16, 2012**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Steve Atzert, Rachel Reed, Vilma Pombo, Lillian Armstrong, Sue Copson, Jeff Schaffer (arrived late) and visiting resident Betsy Haskins.

ABSENT: Gary Farrow; (Dawn Stimmel & Liz Terenik attending another meeting)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reading of Open Public Meetings Act Statement by Chairman Steve Atzert - "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).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Approval of Minutes - March 21, 2012

On motion by: Rachel Reed and Seconded by: Lillian Armstrong

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED:

John & Suzanne Herr - Hardship Variance-Major Site Plan (for Solar Panels)

No negative comments

William Herker - Hardship Variance - required for road frontage (odd shaped lot)

No negative comments

Ischa Campbell - Letter of Interpretation for Freshwater Wetlands (to build SF home)

No negative comments

Jose Montero - Letter of Interpretation for Freshwater Wetlands (to build SF home)

No negative comments

Clean Air Cool Planet - denial of Community Catalyst Fund Grant (salary for Liz same as last year.) Steve to call to resolve matter and reapply for grant.

Inside the Pinelands - Newsletter passed around to members for review.

SUSTAINABLE N. J. REPORT - Not available due to Liz Terenik attending another meeting.
Will be addressed at June 20th meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

Sustainable Jersey Meeting Comments and Update - Liz Terenik has sign-in sheets and everyone will be sent Thank You notes. Steve Atzert gave a brief overview of the meeting and advised that the most requests went for a "Farmers Market" which coincides with what the County Rutgers Agent is currently working on as well. Betsy Haskins advised that the County Ag Board (of which she is a member) does not want to participate in another "Farmers Market" as there are already several scheduled already. Rutgers representative Marylou Rochford and Freeholder Sue Sheppard are currently talking about possibilities at the Cape May Co. Museum. MTEC members are in agreement that the Museum location could be dangerous with traffic congestion on Route 9 near the Zoo. (The subject will be ongoing.)

Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy - No procedures have yet changed. Steve Atzert will follow-up with Township Committee Members to get approval to proceed with "Green Policies."

NEW BUSINESS -

Appointment of MTEC Alt #1 Betsy Haskin and Alt #2 Larissa Smith to be approved by resolution at meeting Monday night May 18, 2012 at 6 PM. (Betsy attending tonight's meeting and Vilma will call Larissa Smith to advise her.)

Several committees have been formed as a result of the community meeting and are as follows:

Open Space and Rec. - Steve Atzert, Liz Terenik and Vilma Pombo

Green Building - Sue Copson and Jeff Schaefer

Green Historic Buildings - Sue Copson and Jeff Schaefer. (Vilma advised that Middle Twp. does not have an Historic Commission, however, the new Master Plan does support having one. Will need Mayor and Committee to issue ordinance/resolution and appoint members to board. Jeff will get info to Sue regarding Cape Mays Historic ordinances.)

Steve Atzert gave a report about a Backyard Wildlife Seminar that he recently attended which was hosted by West Cape May Environmental Commission. He has also spoken with Pat Sutton who taught the seminar about having MTEC host the same type of seminar here in Middle Twp. Her rate for the program would be \$275.00. Steve also talked about getting more information out to local newspapers to keep public informed about what MTEC is doing in the community.

Members were urged to contact Sen. Van Drews office to urge him to stop the NJDEP waiver rule by May 17th. This rule would roll back many environmental protections now in place. See SCR 59 by Sen. Buono and ACR 37 by Assmbmn. P Barnes.

Vilma Pombo also pointed out that Middle Township has attained Tree City USA status.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM on motion by Lillian Armstrong and seconded by Sue Copson.

Minutes submitted by:
Vilma Pombo, acting secy.
5/17/12