



**MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2011 – 6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS: Steve Russell, Gary Farrow, Steve Atzert, Rachel Reed, Christine Kobielnik, Vilma Pombo, Jim Amenhauser, Lillian Armstrong, Liz Terenik. Robert Jackson was absent.

Steve Russell opened the meeting.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

None submitted.

Mayor DeLanzo extended gratitude to those serving on the Environmental Commission. Spoke of changes in the Master Plan, which is under revision. Liz Terenik has reviewed and there will be a lot of zoning changes in Middle Township.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vilma Pombo spoke on Earth Day Event being held on May 7th from 10 AM to 4 PM, at the Cape May County Park and Zoo, "Fragile, Handle with Care" is theme for this year. The Environmental Commission will have a table for exhibits. Advised that on the web there are features for information on plant materials. Vilma also gave out correspondence regarding NJ Fertilizer Law that goes into effect this year. It runs from 11/15/2011 to 3/1/2012 for residents and from 12/1/2011 to 3/1/2012 for professionals.

Christine Kobielnik was asked to reach out to the high school to help get the students involved in environmental issues.

Liz Terenik wanted to know if there was going to be a Green Fair this year.

Mayor DeLanzo suggested maybe piggy backing Green Fair with Harvest Fest.

Steve Russell announced the ANJEC training session being held this Saturday.

Liz Terenik advised she will be doing a press release about the Clean Air Cool Cities Grant that we received.

SUSTAINABLE NEW JERSEY:

Liz Terenik gave a recap from the February meeting regarding the Sustainable Jersey. She said there are many opportunities in this program. We did apply for a \$2500 grant for Clean Air Cool Cities Grant, which we received. There are 118 actions and we already have 150 points. We need to post information, such as any ordinances we have adopted or actions that are complete. The program lays out how to accomplish actions the Township takes or actions taken by the Environmental Commission.

DISCUSSIONS:

Steve Russell suggested we start with the Township, who had an Energy Audit done since the Commissions last meeting. HVAC is a big one to look at. There are a lot of fixes that are relatively inexpensive.

Mark Mallett spoke on the Energy Audit that was done by the Township. Our biggest opportunity comes from lighting in going from T-12 to T-8. We need to get funds or grants to assist with this.

Steve Russell requested the Commission members to review the Energy Audit and give some recommendations on how to apply for grants. He questioned if there were any funds available.

Mark Mallett said it depends on the project, that we do have funds available for emergency situations.

Mayor DeLanzo added that Triad is who we use to help us with grants. Suggested we have them at a meeting in the future. Liz Terenik also does grants.

Steve Russell requested Liz Terenik to look at grants that may be available.

Lillian Armstrong questioned if we have pesticide free parks and playgrounds in County. She is going to check into this for the next meeting and come back with some recommendations.

Liz Terenik thought that would be a good project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve Russell introduced Jeff Schafer who is an expert in alternative energy sources. Jeff spoke of the LED lights that the Coast Guard Base is switching to, as well as energy uses and savings. He spoke of the "bulb eater" that the Coast Guard Base had purchased, which in the long run will save them money in the disposal of the LED lights as opposed to having to have them packed up and shipped to be disposed of. This "bulb eater" has a life expectancy of 5 years.

Liz Terenik spoke about windmill ordinances, solar permitted on roofs but not freestanding and discussed solar variances and ways to try to change.

Steve Russell suggested we find out the rules for alternative energy.

Mayor DeLanzo suggested working hand in hand with the Economic Development in getting businesses to make environmental changes. Maybe could consider helping a business put up a windmill. Maybe get together with the Economic Development Council and discuss how to develop a loan policy for environmental issues.

Jim Amehouse announced the Beach Sweep taking place April 30th from 9 AM to 12 PM by Clean Ocean Action in Del Haven.

Steve Russell asked Christina Kobielnik to reach out to the schools.

Vilma Pombo spoke on landscaping to attract creatures.

Steve Russell stated we need to develop goals with timelines.

Discussion was held on a Mission Statement for the Environmental Commission and the fact that we need one.

Set up meeting dates for the year, which will be the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the upstairs conference room of Township Hall. Dawn Stimmel will make sure correct advertising done.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM