



**MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2013**

Meeting called to order at 6:34 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: Steve Atzert, Rachel Shepherd, Vilma Pombo, Larissa Smith, Dawn Stimmel

ABSENT: Gary Farrow, Lillian Armstrong, Betsy Haskin, Jeff Schafer

Chairman Atzert commented that he would like to see more members show up to our meetings.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Approval of Minutes - November 13, 2013 -

On Motion By: Vilma Pombo

Seconded By: Rachel Shepherd

Minutes were approved by all.

1.) Communications

- NJDEP – Coastal General Permit – Applicant: Gustavo Calvo – Project Name: Aquaculture-Shellfish Lease 29A - Property Owner: Elizabeth Haskin.
Motion made to support – On motion by Vilma Pombo
Seconded By: Rachel Shepherd
Motion passed unanimously.

- Arthur Ponzio Co. & Associates – Major Site Plan/Hardship Variance – Applicant: Monterey Motel, Inc. – Indian Trail & 663 Shunpike Rd. – Block 348.02; Lots 2, 10 – Major Site Plan/Hardship Variance - Going before Planning Board January 14, 2014.
Four (4) buildings are to be constructed, along with open storage. EC passed resolution opposing this – do not feel any wetlands should be filled in for this project.
On motion by: Vilma Pombo

2nd By: Larissa Smith

Resolution passed unanimously.

(Copy of December 12, 2012, June 19, 2013 and July 17, 2013 minutes sent to David May, Zoning & Planning Board Secretary with comments from those meetings regarding this subject. (Steve Atzert hand delivered above minutes to David on December 12, 2013)

- Dynamic Engineering – Applicant: Dearborn Land Investments LLC – Address: 1616 Rt 9 N – Block 13.02; Lots 18, 19 – Major Site Plan – Going before Planning Board January 14, 2014.

This is the Dollar General in Swainton. The EC discussed the fact that they had requested an archeological investigation when first noticed on this. Vilma was going to look into, but in reading application, it was shown that one was done.

3) Unfinished Business

- Farmers Market

Steve had a meeting with 4H Board on November 25th. Julie Karavan, whom he had recently dealt with is now in Cumberland County. He said the 4H still seems interested. The college is holding off on making the decision as to whether or not we can use the parking lot until after the first of the year. However, when the college was given the ground to use by the 4H. the deal was that the 4H would be able to utilize it when needed. The Farmers Market will also need to make enough to cover police and clean up afterwards. Steve had a list of the vendors from the Harvest Fest, however, there were no phone numbers on the list. We are considering doing a form letter to vendors, along with an application, as well as possibly a press release. Vilma is going to call Ocean City, Sea Isle City, West Cape May and Stone Harbor to get information on vendors from them and to get a feel of how they handle their markets. Sturdy Savings and Cape Savings have provided funding for some of the markets. Steve had sent out the guidelines for Farmers Markets on November 13th that he requested we all review.

- Mountain Bike Trail

Vilma commented that Middle Township has a commitment to provide beach access for trails. One that came to mind was Reeds Beach. Steve said Cooks Beach would also be pedestrian and bike friendly. Rachel did not feel Reeds Beach would be bike nor pedestrian friendly due to the parking situation there, especially in the summer.

Steve gave out maps (Exhibit A-2 Maps) showing the area being discussed for the mountain bike trails. It would start at Ocki Wisting. He thought there had been a discussion of possibly putting a police substation at the Ocki Wisting site, which he feels would be a deterrent for any type of vandalism. The owner of the property in the center of the map has requested that the bike path be 100' off of his boundary lines.

Steve has also been speaking with Lower Township and there may be some involvement with them. If we should go through any wetlands for this project, we would need to get State approval.

Cape May County Park and Zoo is very adamant that if we do this project that it be a multipurpose trail such as a walking and biking trail. Steve has also been speaking with Bruce Doherty from Hale Bicycle Shop who is very interested in this project. Steve feels that once we get this going, that Bruce would be willing to advertise by handing out maps of the trails to his bike customers.

4.) New Business –

- Letter of support for Middle Township and Lower Township Joint County Open Space Application for Connected Bicycle Path (See Exhibit “B”)

This letter is for the bike path that Middle Township is doing with Lower. If this bike path happens, people would be able to ride from the Ferry to Middle Township.

EC made a motion to approve the Letter of Support.

On Motion By: Rachel Shepherd

2nd By: Vilma Pombo

Approved unanimously.

- Potential Southern Pine Beetle Infestations in Middle Township

Vilma said she had spoken with someone from the State regarding the pine beetles and was told that once a tree falls to just leave it where it is. They also advised her of certain types of pine trees to stay away from if she was planning on replanting.

EC decided to hold off discussing this until the January meeting as he is going to look further into this. He does not recognize any of the addresses that were affected and is going to do some research to see where these properties are located in the Township.

Also brought up Township being Tree City USA. No application was filed in 2012, not on the list. Vilma is going to check with Jill on this to see what we need to do to regain that title.

5.) Reports - NONE

COMMENTS:

Vilma had a conversation with a lady from the State regarding the Martee Dump. She said the dump was officially closed in 1982. In 2006 all the gas vents were closed and they went to solar flares. Solar flares are used to control the buildup of methane gases by being funneled through pipes and burned under controlled conditions to provide optimal burning conditions. When it is emitted into the air, it is less toxic and less damaging than the methane being discharged directly into the air. She said the permits are renewed every 6 years, but they are about a year behind in requests.

Vilma also reported that the Environmental Committee must do a final report to ANJEC in January.

.) Meeting adjourned (time) 8:07 PM

On Motion By: Larissa Smith

Seconded By: Rachel Shepherd

Pass unanimously.

"A"



"A"



4
B

Daniel D. Lockwood
Mayor
Timothy C. Donohue
Deputy Mayor



Susan L. DeLanzo
Committeewoman
Constance A. Mahon
Business Administrator

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP

"A Safe and Clean Family Community"

The Honorable Daniel Lockwood
Mayor, Middle Township
33 Mechanic Street
Cape May Court House, New Jersey 08210

RE: Middle Township and Lower Township Joint County Open Space Application for
Connected Bicycle Path

Dear Mayor Lockwood:

It has come to our attention that the Township of Middle and the Township Lower will be submitting a joint application for the Cape May County Open Space Grant Program for the construction of a connected bicycle path that will begin at the Cape May County Park and Zoo and end at the Cape May Lewes Ferry terminal in North Cape May.

This letter serves to support for this application. The completion of this path will serve as an enormous and critical asset to the community and the region. The completion of this phase provides additional opportunities for residents and visitors to utilize alternative modes of transportation and connects residential areas with multiple activity centers located throughout the County – including commercial districts, campgrounds, recreational areas and educational facilities.

This worthwhile project will add recreational enjoyment for residents and visitors throughout Cape May County. Therefore, I offer my full support for this initiative.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Atzert".

Steve Atzert, Environmental Committee Chairman