

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF THE MIDDLE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 19, 2020

- 1.) Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM
- 2.) 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).
- 3.) Roll Call: Vilma Pombo X; Rachel Shepherd A; Betsy Haskin A; Larissa Smith A; Josh Nemeth; X Dawn Stimmel X Amanda DeVico A Vera Kalish A Tarin Mason X; Betsie Kohler X
- 4.) Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2020
On motion by: Tarin Mason
Approved by: All
Seconded by: Josh Nemeth
- 5.) Communications –
 - * Hyland Group – Waterfront Development Permit application and Coastal Wetlands Permit; Applicant: Pacitti Residence; Address: 713 Stone Harbor Blvd; Block 313 – Lot 54 – Project # SHS-55558 – Home owner wants to construct a new L shaped pier off shore from an existing timber bulkhead-as long as they do not go too far out, that will be fine- **NO COMMENT – WILL GO TO DEP**
 - * M.V. Engineering – TWA Application-repair of malfunctioning septic system; Applicant: Sun Big Timber Lake RV & Camping Resort; Address: 116 Swainton Goshen Road; Block 9; Lots 26 & 28 – All they need was to hire someone to repair the system and they are ready to go - **NO COMMENT**
 - * American Littoral Society: Applying to NJDEP for Coastal General Permit #24; beach and intertidal oyster reef restoration; Baycove and Kimbles Beaches – **NO COMMENT**
 - * Applicant: Salty Hands LLC – Address: 4401 N Wildwood Blvd; Block 1298 – Lots 2, 2.01, 3; Use Variance-Major Site Plan; Going before Zoning Board February 13th – **Postpone for Zoning Board** – no new date set yet.
 - * ANJEC – Newsletter regarding advocating reducing single-use bags, polystyrene foam food products and straws. Vilma said NJ is in the process of writing a plastic law...they would like all municipalities to pass an Ordinance.
 - * MV Engineering – Applicant: Jessie Creek Vinyards; Address 1 Rt 47; Block 43 – Lot 12; Reconstruction/Expansion of Septic System – **NO COMMENT**
- 6.) Unfinished Business – Tree Give Away – Saturday, April 4th from 10 am to 3 pm in parking area of Construction/Zoning Office – Need volunteers
- 7.) New Business - Tarin will be attending the Meet and Greet with Mike Testa on March 2nd at Lucky Bones
 - * Vilma advised Earth Day is April 18th this year and she will need volunteers for this.
 - * Spoke of trying for Grant again to do flower boxes at end of driveway at Goshen Complex with solar lights to mark entrance off of Goshen Rd.

Comments:

Josh spoke about his work on the Tree Ordinance that he is working on. Has looked at other ordinances, but not sure how to work them into his. He does not want to do one that is just going to get buried.

Vilma said she and John Ludlam wrote a tree ordinance years ago, but does not think anyone ever looked at it. She handed out information on trees and CAFRA regulations, although some have been changed.

Spoke about Department of Agriculture wanting to heavily regulate native plants. Basically, if a plant is considered rare or threatened in the state, you are not allowed to plant it, replant it, grow it or give it away. That includes a lot of plants that are common in native gardening. The way they are going about it is incorrect. They are concerned about contamination of native plants from outside sources, although cross contamination can still be done by birds flying and dropping seeds from different states.

We can send an email stating our stance on this. Fourth time this bill has come up, the copy he has is from 2013. This could affect a lot of gardening businesses in NJ that sell native plants, which includes a huge percentage of nurseries. Something like this law would be very hard to enforce. It is pretty much left open to whomever is enforcing this law, which that in itself is dangerous. They are not doing anything about the stuff that is a major problem.

Tarin has been trying to work with the schools on recycling, but has been getting nowhere. Main problem is the schools are not recycling. The problem is the janitors need a triple sided bin so they can recycle. She spoke with Judy Fala and is trying to get something set up regarding the schools. She has been reading all of the articles that there is no longer a market for recyclables and a lot of cities that are no longer recycling. In speaking with Lynn, she wants to continue with the recycling program, but her main concern is if we finally get the schools to recycle and then the program is stopped. Going to keep trying to get something started with the schools.

8.) Meeting adjourned (time) 7:43 PM
On Motion By: Josh Nemeth
Approved by all

Seconded By: Tarin Mason