

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

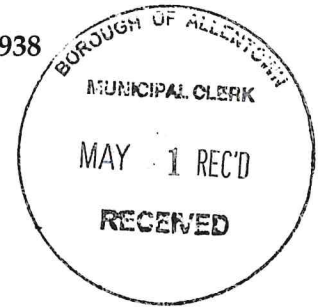
P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

Zoom-<https://zoom.us/j/98956980938> Meeting ID:98956980938

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

2 February 2023

Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in by Chairperson Bill Cotte at 7:02 p.m., and the following statement was read:

“In compliance with the ‘Open Public Meetings Act’, Chapter 231, PL 1975, Section 5, adequate notice has been given of this meeting by posting a Notice in the lobby of the Borough Hall, a public space; on the Borough’s website, Facebook page, and Twitter account and by transmitting a notice to two newspapers, THE TIMES and the ASBURY PARK PRESS, as required by law.”

Flag Salute

Role call - Present: Bill Cotte, Nancy Tindall, Wil Borkowski, Rick Jakober, Jeff Ploshay, Patricia Brown, and Kirstin Jakober, and Councilwoman Martha Johnson; Absent: Jennifer Elder Brady; A quorum was present.

Approval of agenda - Motion made by Patricia Brown and 2nd Rick Jakober to approve the agenda; motion passed.

Minutes Review -A motion was made by Rick Jakober and 2nd Nancy Tindall to approve the January 12, 2023 meeting minutes; Motion was passed.

Guest Speaker – Dolph Guerds, One Can Compost (www.onecancompost.com)

Public Participation - (limited to 3 minutes) Andrew Plunkett, Allentown High School Environmental Ed. Teacher; Linda Cotte, Allentown resident and Economic Development Chair.; Trish McPeak LaRocca, Allentown resident; John Tew, Allentown resident

Correspondence - none

Old Business –

- Sterling Submission -Site Plan Review – nothing new
- Mercer Corporate Park –Patricia Brown and Steve Levandoski made a YouTube video <https://youtu.be/L4wbFXr5lmc> that highlights the bird activity and the negative impact that the warehouse development will have on and around the area in Mercer Corporate Park in Robbinsville, NJ. The new Robbinsville combined land use board meeting is scheduled for February 21.

- Stein Property Update – Rick Jakober stated that there were drilling rigs recently on the property. The drilling was apparently in areas where the soil tests were being carried out...possibly sampling or test wells. This was being done by Boring Bros. who specialize in test wells. Upper Freehold Twp. officials are looking into it.
- Composting Update – Nancy Tindall introduced Dolph Geurds, *One Can Compost*, a farm business in Hopewell. Dolph said that his first goal was getting people to compost as backyard composting. Nancy said that between 20-40% of household waste was food waste. Dolph stated that when people compost there are carbon offsets to nitrogen. He explained that people worry that it's too difficult to compost. He said you could easily do a static open pile with dominant fungal growth and aspirate with a holey PVC pipe for better compost. Start with an old pallet or something similar off the ground. Add cardboard on the bottom, altering some wood chips and paper (brown layers) and layer table scraps and vegetation (green layers) . Do not layer meat products because it would be too much carbon offset and attract animals. Bill Cotte commented that composting was not only good for the environment but in the long run would save money for hauling household waste. It's the best way for an individual to effect climate change. Dolph said that schools could easily get involved. He is working with several schools and leaving 65 gallon cans on wheels. The number depends on the student population. Families that want to participate in a pilot program get a spreadsheet to see how much has been averted from the waste stream. Public participant, Trish McPeak LaRocca asked what she should do with wood ashes from a fireplace and what size wood chips would be best to compost. Dolph said to spread the ashes out directly on the garden. He said wood chips that are from tree services are adequate.
For residential service, Dolph will drop off a bucket and pick up each week, replacing with an empty bucket. He said that some HOA's (Home Owner Associations) do not allow composting. They might want to consider some drop-off points for a lesser fee. Public participant, John Tew, asked if using native soil from his property in the compost was a good idea. Dolph suggested also adding leave litter. Nancy said that this was an excellent solution for some of the Borough's waste disposal. Dolph said that in 3-5 years, it will be mandated in NJ. His service will also take seasonal waste, i.e. Christmas trees and pumpkins, and he will take cardboard and pizza boxes.
- Rain Barrel Education – Doressa Williams, 2023 Watershed Ambassador – Proposed a public workshop on April 22, Earth Day. The AEC's motion was approved for that date at the January meeting. Bill Cotte said there may be a conflict due to the Borough proposing another street fair/Spring Stroll on the same weekend. The AEC will continue with the original plan to do the rain barrel workshop on that weekend, Saturday April 22.

Other Business - none

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Rick Jakober and 2nd Wil Borkowski adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.; the motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, March 2, 2023, 7:00 PM Borough Hall in person and on Zoom.