

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

6 January 2022

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in by Chairperson Bill Cotte at 7:00 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, Face Book 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

Reorganization

- Chairman – appointed by the Mayor – Bill Cotte
- Election of Commission Vice-Chair -Motion made by Patricia Brown and 2nd by Nancy Tindall to appoint Rick Jakober; motion passed
- Election of Commission Secretary – Motion made by Nancy Tindall and 2nd Jennifer Elder Brady to appoint Patricia Brown; motion passed
- Elect to Education & Stewardship – Motion made by Bill Cotte and 2nd Janice Buchalski to appoint Rick Jakober; motion passed
- Election of Social Media Director – Motion made by Bill Cotte and 2nd Patricia Brown to appoint Rick Jakober; motion passed
- Liaison to Sustainable Jersey/Green Team – Motion made by Bill Cotte and 2nd Patricia Brown to appoint Rick Jakober and Jennifer Elder Brady; motion passed

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

Approval of agenda - Motion to approve by Jennifer Elder Brady 2nd Rick Jakober; The motion passed

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Nancy Tindall and 2nd Rick Jakober to approve the December 2, 2021 meeting minutes; Janice Buchalski abstained; Motion was passed.

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes) –none

Communications

Correspondence -

- Patricia Brown responded to an email from Liz Ritter of ANJEC regarding the membership dues. Nancy Tindall made a motion and Bill Cotte 2nd to renew the ANJEC membership and pay dues for 2022; motion was passed.
- Patricia Brown received an email regarding a link to NJ Audubon's program: *Garden for Wildlife* series starting online in March. She forwarded this to AEC members. Rick Jakober will post on the FaceBook page.

Borough Council Report - none

Old Business -

- Borough Master Plan NRI/ERI – Update
- Rain Barrel Education – Bill Cotte said that the Rain barrel workshop date is set for Feb. 26, 2022 from 10am-12am at the First Aid Squad building. Wil Borkowski will coordinate with First Aid
- Composting Education – Nancy Tindall said AEC should start with educating the residents about composting on social media. She will get more information about composting from ANJEC. She said it was more complex to have a municipal composting program. Jan Buchalski asked what resources were available from ANJEC. She has reached out to ANJEC in the past and will follow up with them. Patricia Brown will work on this as well.
- Jennifer Elder Brady spoke about a walk through the Stein property and Mercer Corporate Park with Patricia Brown, Rick Jakober, Kirstin Jakober, Wil Borkowski and Watershed Ambassador, Megan Schupsky, to access note the streams for future water quality assessment.

New Business – none

Committee Reports

- Borough Council Liaison - Councilwoman Martha Johnson – There will be a Council meeting on February 8th with County representatives regarding a traffic light at the intersection of High St. and South Main St.
- Planning & Zoning – Jennifer Elder Brady - none
- Parks & Open Space – Janice Buchalski – Sgt. George Ashby Park work continues. The 1st phase is complete. Phase 2 is out for bid. Drawings were going to be sent out. E&LP engineers are set for the Spring
- Bee City USA – Janice Buchalski reported that we renewed our status with the Xerces Society. Bee City USA provides online signage information for affiliates but does not give us the actual signs. Jan will buy the signs. Patricia Brown will ask the Shade Tree Commission if we can share the posts with their Tree City USA signage. Wil said that the borough was cleaning up signage around town and Jan should check with Councilwoman Erica Torsiello and Councilman Mike Drennan.
Jan also discussed reaching out to the Economic Development Commission (EDC) to see if they would be interested in partnering with the AEC and perhaps having a Pollinator

Parade to raise awareness with foot traffic through Heritage Park to see the Pollinator Garden. Nancy Tindall suggested having some intentional tours of the Borough since Pollinator Week is in June. Work with the EDC and the Allentown Garden Club for a self-guided tour. Jan said maybe they could do a scavenger hunt for pollinator plants and products i.e. tomatoes, coffee, etc. to raise awareness about how important pollinators are to our foods.

- Recycling – Patricia Brown – Nancy Tindall asked when do the hauler contracts for Waste and Recycling expire? She suggested we have a planned conversation with Laurie Roth as the business administrator to see about municipal composting. Bill Cotte will look into his notes to set a time frame and suggested we needed to brainstorm how to approach the problem. Nancy said we need to put some structure to a plan and do some fact finding of how this might reduce our waste stream. There are 3 different things involved: leaves/brush, composting and recycling, and waste management. With composting there will be a reduction of haulage costs and footprint. But how much? What is the tonnage for trash? What percent is food waste? Patricia said that composting food waste will definitely reduce the tonnage and then the cost of hauling. Wil Borkowski suggested we share a service with another municipality. Jennifer Elder Brady said we should find out if people really want to do it? Patricia will see if the Master Gardener program has any suggestions or classes available. Councilwoman Martha Johnson will reach out to Borough Administrators for the last 2 years of tonnage reports and will forward these to Bill, Rick, and Patricia. Rick will check with the Green Team for ideas.
- Education & Stewardship – none
- Sustainable Jersey & Green Team – Rick Jakober & Jennifer Elder Brady – attended some webinars for Sustainable Jersey; one regarding the North Jersey Transportation Authority. The webinar discussed grants and how to apply for them. Rick and Jennifer are looking into a grant to help develop walk ways to connect Allentown’s open spaces. There was also a webinar from PSE&G on grants which seem to be more applicable for municipal commissions and other groups. The Power Point presentations were recorded. The question was brought up about which direction we want to move in?
- FaceBook – Rick Jakober

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Rick Jakober and 2nd Janice Buchalski to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.; The motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, February 3, 2022, 7:00 PM on Zoom.