

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

3 February 2022

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in by Chairperson Bill Cotte at 7:04 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

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

Approval of agenda - Motion to approve by Janice Buchalski and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jennifer Elder Brady; The motion passed.

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Nancy Tindall and 2<sup>nd</sup> Rick Jakober to approve the January 6, 2022 meeting minutes; Motion was passed.

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes) – Linda Cotte –Commended the AEC for the progress it has made in the Allentown Community. She said since the reorganization meeting, she is the new chair to the Economic Development Commission and wants to work on more joint projects. She is willing to donate more time and resources to unify all Committees and Commissions and will have a special Allentown Borough email for future communications.

Communications

- *Correspondence* - Nancy Tindall received an email from Alex Ambrose, ANJEC, regarding looking to increase local authority for more stringent regulations for Stormwater management.

Borough Council Report - none

Old Business -

- Borough Master Plan NRI/ERI – Update -none

- Rain Barrel Education – Bill Cotte said that the Rain barrel workshop date may be postponed due to Borough COVID restrictions for in-person meetings. Patricia Brown will check with Laurie Roth. Rick Jakober will send an email to Megan Schupsky, Watershed Ambassador to confirm what the Watershed is doing.
- Composting Education – Nancy Tindall said AEC needs to make a project outline for how to tackle composting in the Borough ...general education; things to share with the Borough; some things we want to explore as a composting program for the Borough. The AEC should check on resources and materials that will be needed. Is it worthwhile? What is the component to the general management of our household waste? Are there statistics to compare? Should we share information on the AEC FaceBook page? Bill said it will teach Borough residents that it will reduce tonnage that will reduce costs. Another source of savings would be the leaf and brush pickup. Councilwoman Johnson had emailed Nick Pellichero, DPW supervisor, for tonnage information, will no reply. Nancy stated that other helpful data would be money and environmental benefits. Clean Communities funds are available as well as their reports. We need to see the contract data on rates for hauling and disposal, year term, and where the wates items go. She explained that Trenton Renewables will take food waste. 40% of waste is food. Bill said that we need to stimulate the conversation. Nancy asked about Solterra and what services do they offer? We need to educate residents about what composting means. Wil Borkowski suggested getting industry-wide models and economic data. Nancy said maybe put out a survey on recycling and composting, a sustainability survey. Kirstin Jakober will put together a Power Point presentation. Nancy will send her some information from ANJEC to include, i.e. if 1 item is not appropriate or dirty, it can contaminate the whole load.
- Recycling Education –none
- Johnson Corporate Park – Bill Cotte reported that site plans are being submitted for development on the Mercer Corporate Park site. The AEC needs to get a copy of the plans. Councilwoman Johnson will request a copy when the Borough Council receives it. Jennifer Elder Brady said there will be a public comment meeting. Nancy said residents within 200' will receive a notice. You can also go and review the file in person. Patricia Brown said that Robbinsville is looking to rezone the properties from Circle Drive and along Potts Road.

#### New Business –

- Lights in Farmer Park Court – Bill Cotte stated that the lights in Farmer Park's pickleball/dodgeball court are still an issue. They are on all evening and it is a waste of resources. Should there be a timer, motion sensor? Should we write a letter to Council? Councilwoman Johnson will speak to Council and the DPW. Wil said it is an electric box issue. We should find out what the price is to fix it. Nancy Tindall said we are sharing goals with other commissions and committees, and Parks and Public Spaces (P&PS) should be involved. Jan Buchalski said that P&PS is looking into improving designs and use of resources as part of any project, i.e. light pollution. She said we should revisit goals and coordinate with P&PS. Jennifer said we should email P&PS and coordinate with Council liaison, Councilman Mike Drennan and Councilwoman Erica Dekranes. Councilwoman Johnson will also meet with them and Bill Cotte along with the chair of P&PS, Craig Rondinone.
- Lead Pipe Connectors, Church Street – Wil said the issue with the lead pipes throughout the Borough was at the flexible coupling to make the connection to the system. It is a

gooseneck lead pipe connector with galvanized piping. Jennifer said it doesn't necessarily cause problems with lead in the water. She showed a diagram of the lead gooseneck and how little effect it has on the lead levels but it still may be a contributing factor. Wil will speak with Roberts Engineering and see if there is a grant to replace the pipes. Streetscape will be done after the pipe replacements on Church Street.

- Goals sharing with other Borough commissions & committees – Nancy Tindall said we all sit on different boards, committees, and commissions in the Borough. If we knew what each one was doing, there could be an intersection of concerns for the year...it would combine our efforts, and is a good way of communicating and would better focus our priorities. Bill Cotte said the ABCA should meet with all chairs of commissions, Council, etc. and share ideas jointly, not in singular committees, etc. Jennifer Elder Brady said they could meet with the Green Team on things that would help, i.e. ERI information that comes out. Wil suggested a yearly "Master Plan" to publish for residents. Each Commission should have a 1 year plan. Look at the minutes and communicate through the Council liaison. Councilwoman Johnson said they could have quarterly meetings with the chairs and vice chairs and send information to the secretaries.

### Committee Reports

- Borough Council Liaison - Councilwoman Martha Johnson – There will be a Council meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> with County representatives regarding a traffic light at the intersection of High St. and South Main St.
- Planning & Zoning – Jennifer Elder Brady – There are grants for Stormwater management from NJDEP and help for aging infrastructure. She will pass this information along to the AEC to look at. It is driven by Council or the Borough Engineer. We recognize the changes in the law and maybe we can make recommendations. I.e. damage to culverts, property owner's responsibility, look into how to help the Borough. Bill Cotte asked if there were any grants. He spoke about 2 public areas with problems with storm drains on Johnson Drive and the removed storm drain by the Church St. entrance to Heritage Park.
- Parks & Open Space – Janice Buchalski – Sgt. George Ashby Park work continues. The rain garden is partially installed. They are looking in to grants, maybe the ANJEC grant for the Spring to continue with installation part 2 and to try to get some native plants. They need specifications. Nancy will make an inquiry with ANJEC and Rutgers. Jan will get more concrete information.
- Bee City USA – Janice Buchalski reported that the renewal for Xerces/Bee City USA is complete.
- Recycling – Patricia Brown – Nancy Tindall reminded everyone that May 4, 2022 was a key date for businesses for the State Plastics Ban.
- Education & Stewardship – none
- Sustainable Jersey & Green Team – Rick Jakober stated that they now have ability to add things to spread sheets and goals.
- FaceBook – Rick Jakober

### Other Business

- Jeff Ploshay spoke about Daffodil Days in the Borough that will run for 2 weekends. Further information will be forth coming in a newsletter.
- Stein Property – Rick Jakober stated that surveying and soil sampling are being done on the Stein property, along with putting out stakes. He reached out to the Borough's mayor and he is looking into it with Upper Freehold. Former mayor Greg Westfall spoke

with Upper Freehold to see what was going on. Jennifer Elder Brady took a look at Dataminer and saw that there were no permits on the property that were listed. She also looked on GeoWeb and it is listed as an Historic and Cultural site. Nancy Tindall has information on the property that records it as a camping ground for the British during the Revolutionary War. It was also Historic fill for the making of Rt I-195. It is also a State Rural area which may have an impact on the sewerage of the site. There may be a 208 Planning Process for sewage. We have to look to see if there will be a change of use application. This can be determined from the stakes and will tell there is no sewer.

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Wil Borkowski and 2<sup>nd</sup> Janice Buchalski to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.; The motion passed.

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