

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

3 March 2022

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, 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; Jeff Ploshay and Kirstin Jakober, 7:26, Councilwoman Martha Johnson; A quorum was present.

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

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Jennifer Elder Brady and 2nd Janice Buchalski to approve the February 3, 2022 meeting minutes; Motion was passed.

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes) – Linda Cotte –Chair, Economic Development Commission reported that the Borough is doing well with the plastic bag recycling program and now has 8 park benches. Public participation-Linda cotte stated that at her request, the borough put a bike rack at Connie’s mill pond.

Communications

- *Correspondence* - Bill Cotte received an email from Liz Ritter, ANJEC, payment and renewal of dues. Bill also forwarded the AEC’s Plastics Ban presentation to the ABCA members who were interested in the new regulations.

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. Rick Jakober will

send an email to Megan Schupsky, Watershed Ambassador to look into alternate dates. Wil Borkowski will check for available dates with the First Aid Squad for building use.

- Composting Education – Nancy Tindall said AEC needs to know how widespread the interest in the Borough would be for composting and see how the cost would be offset for the regular waste removal. Perhaps do a survey for Borough-wide and personal composting.
- Recycling Education –none –waiting for Borough end of year recycling statistics.
- The AEC passed a resolution recommending the TREX Company diversify products for towns other than benches. Jennifer Elder Brady suggested rain barrels. Nancy Tindall made a motion for a resolution in support of the TREX Co. encouraging them to develop additional opportunities /products. Patricia Brown 2nd. The motion was passed.
- 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. Mayor Fritts is still waiting for the information and will forward it to the AEC.
- Lights in Farmer Park Court – Bill Cotte stated that Councilwoman Johnson and Councilman Drennan looked into the lights situation in Farmer Park. They said there was a dimmer issue and had Hammer Electric look at the system. They will put in a digital timer for certain hours of the day.
- Economic Development Commission – Bill Cotte said that they are working on rapport and communications with other commissions and committees within the Borough. They have a shared calendar for official events to avoid duplication. There is a contact information list for chairs of committees and commissions. Bill will spearhead the distribution list
- Stormwater ordinance – Mayor and Council has asked for comments from the AEC. Jennifer Elder Brady will look at the Feb. 3, 2020 ANJEC Model Resolution that supports our local authority to strengthen the stormwater regulations. She will review the information and send it out the AEC members. 250 sq. ft. is recommended by ANJEC. The Stormwater Ordinance will be before the Planning Board. An updated ordinance will be for policy protection. Nancy Tindall made a motion that the AEC adopt and endorse a stricter, higher standard ordinance for stormwater than the FEMA model ordinance. Question: Does the current FEMA Flood Map take climate change into account? The current incident rate for flooding is not effective. It does not reflect the actual flooding experience/incidents/conditions. Jennifer said that based on the info we now have, we cannot make a specific recommendation.
- Plastics Ban – coming May 4th

New Business –

- Stein Property – Rick Jakober spoke about the proposed development of the Stein Property, ASTME-1527 Phase 1, Environmental assessment for a real estate transaction. There was nothing on the new agenda from Upper Freehold Twp. Planning Board. There is historic fill on the property on the side of Rt. I-195. There has to be a

50' buffer. Nancy Tindall will contact the Crossroads of the American Revolution NJ Archeological Society to see if she can get State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) data regarding the property.

- Flood Damage Ordinance – Rick Jakober sent an email to AEC members about the FEMA Flood Damage Ordinance and asked if there was anything in ordinances that discussed upstream development and potential flooding. Jennifer said the FEMA map crosses over municipalities. Towns can adopt FEMA's map or do something more stringent. Nancy stated that flood hazard frequencies, due to climate change, have changed requirements. Jennifer said there were specific things on the DEP website for FEMA along with the Uniform Construction Code. NJDEP has an actual model ordinance with optional higher standards that is available for the Borough Council and Engineer. Nancy will contact ANJEC and see about their focus on flooding. She said that Princeton had adopted a stormwater program and we should also check what the Watershed Institute recommends. Jennifer will work with Roberts Engineering to see what the most restrictive/higher standards are that can be enforced. The AEC wants to understand the FEMA maps and if there is anything more recent than the 2009 maps that are available. What are the minimum design elevations for building that are included in the ordinance? Nancy suggested that the theory is that the developer has to take care of the run-off. How is this built into the flood damage ordinance? What is the intersection between FEMA and local stormwater ordinances? Should we speak with Monmouth County officials?

Other Business

- Jeff Ploshay reminded people about the coming 1st Annual Daffodil Days in the Borough that will run for 2 weekends. Further information is forthcoming in a newsletter/email. He also said that there will be a listening meeting at La Piazza on March 31st to discuss ideas and a general town meeting.

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Janice Buchalski and 2nd Rick Jakober to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.; The motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, April 7, 2022, 7:00 PM Borough Hall in person and on Zoom.