

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

7 April 2022

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in by Chairperson Bill Cotte at 7:05 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, and Kirstin Jakober, Councilwoman Martha Johnson; Janice Buchalski and Jeff Ploshay were absent. A quorum was present.

Approval of agenda - Motion to approve by Rick Jakober and 2nd Wil Borkowski; The motion passed.

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Rick Jakober and 2nd Nancy Tindall to approve the March 3, 2022 meeting minutes; Motion was passed.

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes) –

Communications

- *Correspondence* - Bill Cotte received an email from Janice Buchalski regarding the Parks & Public Spaces Committee. She stated that a contract has been awarded for Sgt. Ashby Park and construction will begin almost immediately.

Old Business -

- Borough Master Plan NRI/ERI – Update Kirstin Jakober has received funding from Lafayette College and will be working on the NRI/ERI biology and ecology sections.
- Rain Barrel Education Update –Rick Jakober will send an email to Megan Schupsky, Watershed Ambassador, as she has given alternate dates of May 7th and June 4th. Wil Borkowski will check for these available dates with the First Aid Squad for building use.

- Indian Run Stream assessment -Megan Schupsky will be conducting stream monitoring for Indian Run on April 23rd. Doctor's Creek Bridge is down on Breza Road and will be under construction for about 7 months. Jennifer stated that the Breza Road stream monitoring for April 23rd will be affected. People will have to meet at the Indian Run Bridge and walk in. Is Megan Schupsky, the Watershed Ambassador going to make flyers?
- Composting Education – Nancy Tindall is looking at how we can go about exploring and designing a composting program for the Borough and area. She has gotten in touch with several people who may have some information about starting a municipal compost program, i.e. Rutgers Ecology Complex in Burlington providing waste stream and food amounts for cost benefits. She sent John Finnegan, Robbinsville Clean Team, an email with a series of questions about how Robbinsville does composting; Andrew Plunkette, Environmental Science teacher at Allentown High School, recommended Trenton Biogas, which uses biogas compostables. Nancy also reached out to Laurie Roth to see if she could help with a survey for residents' interests that will include about 5 questions. Laurie will put it out on the Borough's website. Nancy also asked about when the contracts are up for the haulers for Waste Management and Solterra recycling and if they have had any experience with compost elements. She found out that Waste Management is working on a pilot program that will include an alternate bid item for the collection of waste versus compostables. Specs go out for bids by September for the new contracts. There is a factor of 20% to identify the savings we could accrue. There is a Blue Bag program in Massachusetts where the municipalities give out bags that are used for recyclables. People can put food waste in the bags that are then picked up with the regular trash, one pickup for all waste.
- Recycling & Plastics Ban–Patricia Brown will research recycling other materials such as brush, leaves, stumps, grass clippings. Wil Borkowski will look for information about a chipper and how much it would cost for the Borough to own one. Is there a grant that could pay for it? Pat sent an email to AEC members with the new NJDEP sheet/flyer that simply and clearly covers information regarding the new Plastics Ban Law beginning May 4th. Councilwoman Johnson will check to see if it can be mailed out with the water bill from the Water Committee. Nancy also suggested it be sent out by Laurie Roth on the Borough's email blast. Bill Cotte will send it out to the ABCA members.

New Business –

- Stein Property – Update - Rick Jakober spoke about the proposed development of the Stein Property. Surveyors have been out. They were following the contours of the water on the property, outlining the waterway and streams. ESA's phase 1 & 2, desktop review then a more in-depth study will follow. They circled a 20' diameter putting out white flags and used ground penetrating radar. We need to look at the evaluation of areas on the property and how will the impervious cover going to affect the property. What is the storm water run-off? Jennifer Elder Brady said there will need to be more extensive work due to the flood maps not being updated since 2009.
- Flood Damage Ordinance Update – Rick Jakober sent an email to AEC members about the ordinance required by FEMA so that the Borough remains in the National Flood Insurance Program and the residents of the Borough may buy National Flood insurance.

Jennifer said we need to find out about the final submission for the FEMA ordinance from Carmela Roberts, Borough Engineer. Rick said it won't necessarily add much to impact the current flood zone. It's for residences that want to apply for flood insurance. Pat Brown said that you already can see the effects in newer built houses in the Borough such as on Hamilton St. Wil Borkowski said it will be taken into consideration case by case basis. Rick will send recommendations and any further questions to Laurie Roth and Carmela Roberts. The Borough needs to respond to DEP by April 18th. Nancy Tindall has contacted ANJEC to see if there are any concerns about the FEMA Flood Insurance definitions of the 100-year flood etc. being more severe and more prevalent. How many properties will it effect and how will it affect them? Is this just for insurance purposes or new construction? What is the proposed elevation? We will review the feedback and Rick will send comments back.

Other Business

- ANJEC grant- Bill Cotte said he thought that Parks & Public Spaces Committee was applying for the grant.
- Storm Water – Jennifer Elder Brady spoke about the ANJEC resolution for councils to support the NJDEP storm water regulations and for municipalities to make more stringent regulations. There is a blank 1st page of the resolution for Council to adopt a local resolution with the AEC's support for our capability for more stringent regulations using Residential Construction Regulations and Site Standards. Bill Cotte will send this out to AEC members and to Laurie Roth. Nancy Tindall asked if we could also adopt this resolution, make a motion, and if there is a time urgency to have an e-vote . Jennifer made a motion 2nd by Pat Brown. Bill said that this would be Res.- 02-2022.
- Giveaway ideas for Fall Harvest Festival?

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Rick Jakober and 2nd Patricia Brown to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.; The motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, May 5, 2022, 7:00 PM Borough Hall in person and on Zoom.