

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

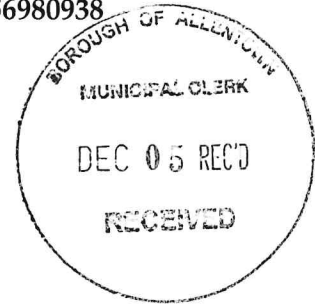
P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

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

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

4 May 2023

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

Approval of Agenda – Motion made to approve the agenda by Patricia Brown and 2nd Wil Borkowski; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes - Motion made by Wil Borkowski and 2nd Rick Jakober to approve the April 6, 2023 minutes; Abstained, Bill Cotte and Nancy Tindall; motion passed.

Public Participation - (limited to 3 minutes) –Mayor Fritts – Update regarding the Stein property. Preservation funding years ago was insulting to the landowners. Allentown Borough already struggles with traffic and stormwater issues. Mercer Corporate Park in Robbinsville has been proposed for warehouse development. Some of that property is adjacent to the Stein property that is in Robbinsville. Both properties are along Indian Run Creek. Stormwater information has already been submitted to NJDEP. The Borough has hired a traffic engineer and multiple attorneys and environmental specialists. There will be roundtable discussions with Congressman Kim. Mayor Fritts spoke about Stop or Delay Amendments regarding waste treatment plants and water quality management plans; a truck ban weight limit and his meeting with the Monmouth County officials; the Moving Mindfully Traffic Study 2019, did not predict traffic in and around the Borough. There are also historical perspectives to be considered with regards to the Borough and the surrounding areas. There will be a May 25th meeting with Monmouth County Commissioners to ask for their help and considerations in this matter.

Correspondence – 1) Jennifer Elder Brady reported that Bee City dues are due.

2) Letter from Bohler Engineering April 26 and 27, 2023 regarding the flood hazard area and freshwater wetlands permits for the Stein property.

Old Business –

- Stein Property Update – Jennifer asked if all the documents have gone to NJDEP with regards to the proposed warehouse development on the Stein property and Westhaven Farms and is Borough Engineer, Carmela Roberts asking for the well reports? Does the Stein property have the 100' buffer? What are the cumulative effects of stormwater downstream, etc? What is the proposed waste water management plan? Rick Jakober stated that both the Stein and Westhaven Farms properties will require police and emergency services that Hope Fire Company and Capital Health cannot handle with present equipment. They'll need to get a 3rd party emergency assessment of capabilities, needs and deficiencies. Allentown resident Linda Cotte stated that Allentown Borough pays 27% of the emergency services with Upper Freehold.

He spoke with Upper Freehold resident, Micha Rasmussen who said there was a request to extend sewer service which is not consistent with Upper Freehold's ordinances. This is the second warehouse development proposed on the border of Allentown Borough. Recently NJDEP has also received an application for the Johnson Warehouse Development in Robbinsville in Mercer County. Both of these enormous proposals with very large amounts of impervious cover will drain/discharge into the Indian Run which flows through Allentown. Downstream of both developments is the Allentown Borough Water Plant.

- Rain Barrel Education – Rick Jakober reported that 17 people had signed up for the public rain barrel workshop on April 22, Earth Day. We were able to accommodate 12 with rain barrels. The workshop ran from 10:00 am-12:30 pm in the Borough Annex building. Rick Jakober and Doressa Williams, Watershed Ambassador, prepared the barrels and purchased the necessary hardware and gave a short presentation. The workshop was well received.
- Composting update – Nancy Tindall- has invited Dolph Geurds from One Compost Can to set up a trial composting program for Allentown Borough.

New Business – Westhaven Farms Property – See Stein property update

Other Business -- Nancy reported that Andrew Plunkett, Allentown High School Environmental teacher will give his Forest Foraging presentation at the Parks & Public Spaces meeting on Monday May 8th.

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Nancy Tindall and 2nd Jennifer Elder Brady to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.; the motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday June 1, 2023, 7:00 PM Borough Hall in person and on Zoom.