

Allentown Environmental Commission
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
June 3, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson William Cotte at 7:03 pm 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 a public space and by transmitting a notice to two newspapers, THE TIMES and the ASBURY PARK PRESS, as required by law.”

Those present were: William Cotte, Jennifer Elder-Brady, Jan Buchalski, Nancy Tindall, Wil Borkowski, Elaine Saulo, Jeff Ploshay, and Marth Johnson, council liaison. Pat Brown attended later; Rick Jakober was absent. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Will Borkowski motioned to approve the agenda for this meeting, Nancy Tindall seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes Review

Jan Buchalski motioned to approve the May 6, 2021 minutes; Wil Borkowski seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Public Present

There was no public present

Communications

Jan thanked everyone for their support with the installation of the pollinator garden. Nancy noted the commission received an invite from ANJEC regarding NJ mapping and stormwater management. Jan noted that council passed a proclamation declaring the third week of June Pollinator Week. Jennifer Elder-Brady noted that this is the 60th anniversary of DEP green acres; she will forward the email she received regarding this. Jennifer also noted that she received the traffic report from Langan regarding Mercer Corporate Park.

Old Business

-Stormwater Ordinance-update

Bill Cotte sent the EC recommendations on the ordinance to Laurie Roth on 4/25. Council declined all EC recommendations. Jennifer to bring up recommendations to the planning board as addendums. Nancy Tindall to introduce Jennifer to her contacts at watershed and Princeton Hydro.

-NRI/ERI update

Nancy, Rick Jakober, Pat Brown, and Bill met with Andy Thomas regarding the NRI. Previously they met with Princeton Hydro. Andy’s assessment was completely different from Princeton Hydro. Andy felt that everything for an updated NRI is already in the Master Plan. Rick noted that the information in the Master Plan should be good enough to use for Sustainable Jersey to get Allentown to the bronze level. He will get the list from Sustainable Jersey to check off what

we already have. Further, Andy was not interested in doing an update of the NRI. Nancy and Jennifer noted that Princeton Hydro may look at the current environmental factors and evaluate those pieces now and compare to the most recent data used in the Master Plan from 2003 (i.e., compare the health of the pond now vs then). Jennifer also asked what are the current requirements for the NRI and what does Rick need. For example, DEP is looking at harmful algae blooms.

-Proposed Water Ordinance

Bill has not heard anything back from Councilwoman Erica Torseillo regarding this.

Councilwoman Marth Johnson reported that council is holding off on that ordinance right now.

-Recycled Content Bill Resolution

Pat pulled everything together and sent out the draft resolution to the EC via email. Nancy, Jennifer, and Jan were all in favor.

New Business

There was no new business

Other Business

Bill brought up the issue of how to perform committee reports in a timely manner, suggesting that committee reports be emailed rather than be reported at the meetings. Elaine Saulo suggested that the reports be limited to 3 minutes but still occur during the meetings. Nancy recommended that committees email Bill prior to the meeting to be added to the agenda if there was something to report. All agreed that this would be the way to proceed.

Jennifer reported that there are no changes being made at 20 Church St; there will be no day care there now so plans are to move forward with the civil engineering business within the home. Home will just be utilized for a different purpose. Planning Board to vote on this at their next meeting. Since there are no changes in the site plan, there are no environmental concerns.

Bill noted he asked Laurie about in person meetings but has not heard anything back yet. Martha noted that yes, the borough is moving in that direction. Bill also stated that Elaine is doing a fantastic job running the FB page; all were in agreement. Jennifer asked how could everyone on the commission post or share info to this page. Bill to ask Laurie to make all commissioners administrators to the page so all could post.

Jan noted that the annual Bee City event needs to be scheduled; Pollinator week vs Fall Festival

Elaine asked about pollinator habitat signs around town and if that is part of Bee City. Jan explained that having the actual signs are not necessarily part of the initiative but a strong indicator that private residents are planting habitat for pollinators, which is very much a part of the Bee City initiative.

Elaine brought up concerns about FB page discussions being public comment if it is an official page. Martha to look into council policy on what we can post or reply on FB.

Marth had a few updates: New speed enforcement zone-Allentown's policy is to enforce this and if ticketed, it goes with a mandatory court appearance. Robbinsville has joined Allentown in a bid to preserve the Whittenborn property. And no changes currently to Mercer Corporate Park.

Next Meeting

July 1, 2021, 6:30 at Heritage Park. Bill suggested having the July meeting outdoors and moving the meeting time up to 6:30; Nancy motioned it be held at Heritage Park, Jan seconded; passed unanimously. Meeting at Church St parking lot.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:09, Nancy motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded.