

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

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

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

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Nancy Tindall and 2nd Rick Jakober to approve the April 7, 2022 meeting minutes; Motion was passed.

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes) – None

Communications

- *Correspondence* - Mercer Corporate Park doesn’t address affordable housing and Allentown Indian run in their impact statements. Is there an opportunity to comment on this to the borough engineer?
- Certified letter from PSE&G filing for freshwater wetlands general permit.

Old Business -

- Indian Run Stream assessment - This was successful, we have the raw data but it has not been assessed yet. Rick has tried to get in contact with Megan Schupsky about this.
- Composting Education – Nancy Tindall has the composting survey that will be sent out in a week. The survey will be up for two weeks but can be put up for longer. She has had 2

contacts, waste management and Central Jersey. She will send many questions to them on what they can and cannot do. Waste management probably can't do curbside pickup for composting waste but they do food waste recycling with commercial businesses for composting. Nancy also talked to Dolph who has a farm in Hopewell and a business of composting. For a fee he will come to your house, pick up a bucket of food waste and leave a new bucket (<https://www.onecompostcan.com/>). He would love to come up with an arrangement for Allentown. He composts regular stuff like veggies but also meat, bones, and other non recyclables like pizza boxes. He will also give compost back. It is \$7 a week. Should tell residents that if they would like to compost they can call this guy. Trenton Biogas has not gotten back to her. EcoComplex at Rutgers is an incubator for renewable resource tech. They have done waste studies and have a conservative estimate that about 20% of waste is food waste. That would take off 20% of what Allentown normally has to dispose of and thus save money because less tonnage. She has a connection from Rutgers and he can come out to talk to us. Garbage and recycling contacts - trying to find any alternatives .

- Recycling & Plastics Ban– Bill Cotte stated that we are allowed to put the recycling flier into the next water bill.
- Flood Damage Ordinance - This has been done but that may change due to the new emergency expansion of stormwater requirements and FEMA flooding made by the NJDEP. Contact Carmela Roberts to discuss how that impacts our current ordinance and whether it is required for Mercer Corporate Park.

New Business –

- Emergency Flood Hazard Declaration - New emergency expansion of stormwater requirements and FEMA flooding made by NJDEP in response to the increased rainfall as a result of climate change. <https://www.csglaw.com/njdep-to-issue-emergency-rule-expanding-flood-hazard-jurisdiction-in-riverine-areas-and-expanding-storm-water-reqirments>. In non tidal areas, the first finished floor of the building has to be three feet above existing elevations. Reliance on existing NOAA data will not be accepted. Question on whether or not Mercer Corporate Park will be grandfathered in or not. Should ask Carmela Roberts if that is the case. Stormwater requirements may affect construction that doesn't currently require DEP permits. Requirements will go into effect as early as mid June. This will affect the Stein property as they may have lost a significant amount of property due to the floodwater expansion and stormwater basin expansion. They will also have to create a flood map and use the projected amounts of rainfall instead of historical NOAA rainfall data.
- Water Treatment Plant Wall Application - The wall is in bad shape. Looking for a waiver to emergency fix the wall. Possibility of using fiberglass as it is more economical long term.
- Biological Resource Inventory - Kirstin Jakober is currently at Lafayette College for a summer scholarship project to study the biological inventory of Allentown. The first visit will be on June 8th and she and her professor Doc Waters will be doing transects to make observations and possibly take plant and soil samples. Wherever possible

there will be college identification so they are as visible as possible. May leave markers out in the park, contacting Laurie Roth to notify the town about it.

- Fall Festival Giveaway - Can get 250 bags for \$500 with the same design as last year. Idea for having the water company or others to get environmental promotional materials for the festival .

Other Business

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Nancy Tindall and 2nd Bill Cotte to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.; The motion passed.

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