

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

7 July 2021

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called on to order in Heritage Park by Chairperson Bill Cotte at 6:35 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, Kirstin Jakober, Rick Jakober, Patricia Brown, Nancy Tindall, Councilwoman Martha Johnson. Absent: Jeff Ploshay, Wil Borkowski. Janice Buchalski. A quorum was present.

Approval of agenda - Motion by Rick Jakober, 2nd Jennifer Elder Brady ; motion passed

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Nancy Tindall and 2nd Bill Cotte to approve the July 1, 2021 meeting minutes; Motion was passed.

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes) – Shade Tree Commission Chair Terry Brown, stated that he is working on a Tree Identification app for the Borough street trees and the trees in Heritage Park.

Communications

- Correspondence - none

An Environmental Commission Walking review of Heritage Park –

There are landlocked sections of the Park. Nancy Tindall suggested plantings to demonstrate a line of demarcation between the Park boundaries and private property. There are issues with people and cars cutting through when there are events in the Borough. Is there a map that shows the Borough property that is not Heritage Park?

The Bamboo Grove is still an issue with Green Acres, part of the Borough's parking lot and private property. There are legal issues due to encroachment of private property into the public sector. Are no dumping signs needed?

Jennifer Elder Brady asked about the trails and where they fork, as well as maintenance. Will people be able to download GPS information whilst they are in the Park? Nancy Tindall said there should be a map of the trails available.

Nancy Tindall proposed that there be better signage for Heritage Park so that people will know where trails are, species of trees, meadow area, pollinator garden, and other points of interest about the Park. This could be done in the entrance kiosk areas.

Borough Council Report - Borough Council Liaison, Councilwoman Johnson –
Robbinsville Township is in support of a truck ban; Monmouth County Traffic Engineers are looking into a traffic light for High Street

Old Business –

- Planning Board – Jennifer Elder Brady reported that the Allentown Borough Planning Board reviewed the concept design for the Town Mews development.
- Stormwater Ordinance – Nancy Tindall offered that Princeton Hydro give input.

New Business

- Welcome to Kirsten Jakober. Her application was approved by a consent agenda for the Allentown Environmental Commission and the Green Team.
- Bill Cotte spoke about the Harvest Fest and that the ABCA is hoping to have a Plastics Free initiative during the Festival They are encouraging participants and vendors to be plastics free. Applications for vendors to participate already stated that plastic bags are not allowed. The Environmental Commission will have reusable bags available for sale during the festival. Bill will send out samples of the logo for the printing of the reusable bags for the Harvest Fest. The cost will be \$450 and bags will be green with a logo proposing reusable bags for the Plastic Bag Ban.

Other Business –

- Plastic Bag Ban ordinance – We need to find out who will be writing the new ordinance for the Borough. Borough attorney Greg Cannon had proposed writing it 2 years ago. Nancy Tindall, Bill Cotte, and Patricia Brown spoke with Borough Council at the time. They had several town ordinance samples to recommend. How will people in the Borough be informed? The AEC will use the ANJEC model Ordinance and the will strongly advise to adopt it. It had been suggested that Council use the State's Plastic Ban ordinance. AEC would "refresh" residents and businesses about reusable bags using ANJEC guidelines and maybe an ANJEC roadshow with high school students using service points. Nancy Tindall suggested making a proposal to the Presbyterian Church on how to make a presentation to others as a case study.

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Rick Jakober & 2nd Patricia Brown to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.; The motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting Thursday, September 2, 2021, 7:00 PM