

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 July 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:, Bill Cotte, Rick Jakober, Patricia Brown, Nancy Tindall, Wil Borkowski, and Kirstin Jakober, Jeff Ploshay, Councilwoman Martha Johnson; Janice Buchalski and Jennifer Elder Brady were absent. 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 Rick Jakober and 2nd Nancy Tindall to approve the March 3, 2022 meeting minutes; Patricia Brown abstained Motion was passed.

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes) – Guest speaker Nancy Waters, professor of Environmental & Ecological Science, Lafayette College. Nancy spoke in support of Kirstin Jakober’s project studying biota plants and macro-invertebrates and how Kirstin was going to put the project and her studies into action, part of which will help with Allentown’s ERI (Environmental Resource Inventory). Kirstin will be focusing on the bio aspects. She has funding for the preliminary data. She will be looking at the “less touched” areas of Allentown, and perhaps rare species. She has verified about a 160 plant species looking at forest margins in Heritage Park, as split forest with inner forest sections. Looking at Farmers Park as a single unit with 70 species for streams and lakes. S Kirstin will be recording the physiochemistry looking at connections and qualities. Can they be linked? She will be collecting soil samples and land invertebrates by plants. She will be making an Index of Encounters, looking at overlap of landscape and landscape, mapping samples and ID-ing the areas. Nancy Tindall asked how the data was going to be presented so we can incorporate it into the ERI? We have stewardship for

Open Space and the study might have implications for our Open Space. What do we do with the information? Rick Jakober stated that most ERI's use State databases.

Communications

- *Correspondence* - Bill Cotte received an email from Megan Schupsky, Watershed Ambassador regarding the listing of macro-invertebrates that were found during the Indian Run stream assessment monitoring in April 2022.

Old Business -

- Rain Barrel Education Update – Bill Cotte & Patricia Brown – 7 people attended Megan Schupsky's (Watershed Ambassador) rain barrel workshop. The cost was \$96.02 total for supplies. A motion was made by Patricia, 2nd by Rick to pay for the supplies which were for educational purposes; motion passed. The rain barrels were provided free of charge by the Coca Cola Company obtained by the Watershed Ambassador.
- Composting Education – Nancy Tindall has gotten some feedback from the ongoing composting survey that is on the Borough's web page. Nancy asked Laurie Roth to re-submit the survey information to see if there will be any more response. The survey will end August 14th.
- Recycling & Plastics Ban – Patricia Brown reported that people responded positively to recycle notices that were placed in doors where violations were noted. Rick said that Hightstown has given residents recycle bins. The town seems to have the same carrier, Solterra. Did the carrier provide the bins? He suggested looking at pricing for getting bins specifically for recycling for Borough residents. Patricia said that years ago residents were given recycling stickers to put on their own bins. The Borough felt it was more cost efficient at the time.
- ERI Assessment – Kirstin Jakober – see above information regarding the public participation.
- She will upload her file.
- Johnson Corporation, Mercer Corporate Park – Bill Cotte stated that letters went out to residents that are within 200 feet of the property.
- Stein Property – Rick suggested looking at the flood damage coordinates for the Stein property.
- Indian Run Stream/Breza Road Assessment- Rick reported that he received a list from Megan Schupsky, Watershed Ambassador, that recorded the pollution tolerant, intolerant, and sensitive species found in the area. The health of the stream depends on the species. The stream received a score of 81.04 which says it is a healthy stream. Nancy said we should question what drove that assessment.

New Business –

- Flood Damage Ordinance Update – Is the Borough adopting the FEMA ordinance regarding the Flood Damage Insurance? Councilwoman Johnson will check into it.

Pat spoke about the article in the Farm Management Bulletin regarding the State Soil Conservation Committee meeting report on the “imminent emergency flood plain and flood hazard rules.” Rick suggested we look into the State Emergency Flood Plain Management issues for the Stein and Mercer Corporate Park properties. Pat will send AEC members a copy of the article and a link to the State Flood Plain rules and regulations for their review. The Flood Hazard Emergency Flood Ruling is taking public comments until July 29th. Nancy stated that we need to look at the structures in the Borough that may be in the flood plain.

- Nancy made a motion 2nd, by Bill that we reach out to the Robbinsville EC to encourage them to diligently examine and comment on the impacts of developing Mercer Corporate Park and Stein properties; motion passed.
- Harvest Festival handouts - Bill will get in touch with the Borough’s water company to see if he can get water drip measure rulers.
- Pollinator Garden – Nancy suggested our next meeting be in Heritage Park so that we can assess/inspect the Pollinator Garden and promote it for education in the Borough. She made a motion, 2nd Pat, to walk – about in Heritage Park and have next meeting 6:30 pm; motion passed.
- Parks and Public Spaces – Nancy said we need to follow up concerning the AEC representative vacancy.

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

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, August 4, 2022, 6:30 PM Heritage Park, Church Street parking lot.