

**Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)**

**P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street**

**Allentown, New Jersey 08501**

**2 September 2021**

**Minutes**

Call to Order

The meeting was called on to order at 7:05pm by Rick Jakober 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, Kirstin Jakober, Rick Jakober, Patricia Brown, Nancy Tindall, Jeff Ploshay, Wil Borkowski, Janice Buchalski, Councilwoman Martha Johnson. Absent: Bill Cotte. A quorum was present.

Approval of agenda - Motion by Rick Jakober, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan Buchalski; Motion passed

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Nancy Tindall and 2<sup>nd</sup> Patricia Brown to approve the August 5, 2021 meeting minutes; Wil Borkowski abstained. Motion passed.

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes per citizen) - none

Communications

- Correspondence - Email regarding Green team and Sustainable Jersey that will get a survey to do as part of the point process regarding the commissions and boards in the Borough.

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 will meet on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Stormwater Ordinance update – none

- Borough Master Plan NRU/ERI – Update – AEC members need to schedule a time to go over and compare what is already done and what needs to be addressed, compare information and updated.
- Plastics Ban – Nancy Tindall asked who is taking the lead on implementation of the Plastics Ban. Is the Borough relying on the State? AEC offered to help 2 years ago. Should the AEC put together something and submit a plan? Councilwoman Johnson will check with Borough Council about the status of the Plastics Ban policy. Wil Borkowski stated that the ABCA will be communicating with the businesses as soon as the information gets to the small businesses in town. They will follow State requirements. Councilwoman Johnson said that it depends on the community and its needs. Patricia Brown suggested checking the State website and see about the dates that were set. Nancy Tindall said there should be a FAQ's and summary to follow. Rick Jakober will send the link to AEC and ABCA members. [www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law](http://www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law)

### New Business

- Old Cemetery - Nancy Tindall reported that Allentown Borough is doing work on the Old Cemetery to reclaim the more original footprint. It involves a driveway behind the South Main Street properties. There are presently 2 access points. They want to close off 1 point and have traffic deferred. They are looking into scraping away the stone and grading the area. Perhaps plant grass. She would like to know if the AEC has any concerns. They are looking into areas for drainage and perhaps a grassy swale. Jennifer Elder Brady said they should not be disturbing more than 5,000 sq. ft. due to soil erosion and sediment control for stormwater management. Lay out the area on a map/figure to measure. Jeff Ploshay said that TAVI was involved and had planted 2,000 Spring bulbs and will be planting more this coming year. Nancy Tindall will speak with DPW Councilman Rob Strovinsky about relocating the fence and reducing the impervious coverage. What will DPW do with the scraped materials? Will they repurpose it?
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Disinfection Upgrades – Rick Jakober stated that the Borough was changing the chemical processing at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Proposed Water Ordinance - Rick Jakober said that the restrictions make it difficult to implement. Meters for lawn sprinklers were a part of the Green Team's movement in the Borough for points.
- TAVI Daffodil Days in Allentown – Jeff Ploshay said that TAVI will plant 2,000 more daffodil bulbs around town and areas of Heritage Park. Jennifer Elder Brady suggested wholesale bulbs and she will check into the prices. Wil Borkowski suggested it become a part of the Spring Festival.
- Fall Festival - Nancy Tindall said that Suzanne Valpreda has gotten in touch to discuss the plan for the coordination with Shade Tree to share a booth. Was there a preference for booth location? It is a 10 X 10 ft. booth. What size banner is needed? Jeff Ploshay suggested using the same website that TAVI has bought banners from. Banners usually run about \$27. Kirstin Jakober suggested looking into a vertical or flag banner to save space. Rick will look into and send out information to AEC members. Rick also spoke

about the reusable bags logo. There was a motion to approve by Jennifer Elder Brady, 2<sup>nd</sup> Janice Buchalski. Motion passed. Bill Cotte will order the bags.

Janice Buchalski asked for opinions if AEC wants to put the booth by the Pollinator Garden in Heritage Park. The Civil War reenactment has been cancelled for this year. The majority vote was no, and to keep the booth on the main street. Rick Jakober said we should have an easel with information. Janice said she has a tri-fold board with Bee City information. Patricia Brown will make up packets of Milk Weed seeds to distribute.

- Recycled Content Bill Resolution - done

Other Business –

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Wil Borkowski & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Ploshay to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.; The motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting On Zoom and in person at the Borough Hall, Thursday, October 7, 2021, 7:00 PM