

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

6 February 2020

Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Tindall 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 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: Nancy Tindall, Patricia Brown, Bill Cotte, Elaine Saullo, Rick Jakober, Janice Buchalski, Jeff Ploshay, Greg Guttadora, and Jennifer Elder Brady. A quorum was present.

Approval of agenda - Unanimous

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Rick Jakober and seconded by Bill Cotte to approve the January 13, 2020 meeting minutes; the motion was passed.

Correspondence - None

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes) - Samantha Pfeffer, Watershed Ambassador, spoke about a Rain Barrel workshop that people can register for. The date for the workshop will be June 6th. Nancy Tindall will email the date to Hightstown, Robbinsville, and Upper Freehold Environmental Commissions/Committees. Patricia Brown will notify the Allentown Garden Club. Questions were brought up as to who will pay for parts and what will be the final costs. Bill Cotte will check with Home Depot to see if we can get a discount.

Committee Reports

- Allentown High School Green Birds – none Sydney Schubel, representative
- Planning & Zoning –Jennifer Elder Brady

Nancy Tindall asked about the Storm Water Management Plan done by the Planning Board. Was there a MS4 Permit? Jennifer Elder Brady said there was none. Nancy said we should pursue sources of funding for pavement reduction. Jennifer stated that it is part of green infrastructure. The Planning Board is working on ordinances for green infrastructure. The Planning Board is looking at model ordinances for storm water standards for large development or re-development. Jennifer said the Planning Board is drafting an ordinance for steep slopes using a model ordinance from other towns to compare. She would like feedback from Environmental Commission members before the March 2nd Board meeting.

Other issues the Planning Board had worked on: The Dumpster & POD ordinances will be under Property Maintenance ordinances; B & Bs and short term residences will not be included as permitted uses; concerns for a Certificates of Occupancy; the question has been raised whether recycling should be in the Land Use ordinance; a shared parking provision is being drafted.

- Bee City USA - Janice Buchalski
- Green Team – Sustainable Jersey – Rick Jakober, Elaine Saullo Reported that there is nothing about dates from Borough Clerk regarding the Public Open Forum on the Stein Property.

Old Business –

- Open Space Preservation –
- Stormwater Management Plan & Green Infrastructure
- Land Use - Riparian buffers, Steep slopes
- Plastics - Bill Cotte will set up a date to meet with representatives from La Piazza Restaurante to discuss limiting use of plastics and using more sustainable take-away containers.

New Business –

- Annual Environmental Commission Report; the Commission reviewed and approved the 2019 Annual Report
- AEC Ideas for projects for 2020.
- ANJEC Membership renewal – A motion made by Nancy Tindall to renew and 2nd by Janice Buchalski. Patricia Brown will send in the membership list to Liz Ritter, ANJEC.
- A motion was made by Patricia Brown, 2nd Rick Jakober to apply for the 2020 ANJEC Open Space Grant for the Heritage Park Meadow Project. The motion passed unanimously. Nancy Tindall will send the Borough Council a request for a resolution to apply for the Grant. Patricia Brown will draft a narrative for the application.

2020 Working Groups: Nancy Tindall asked Commission members to consider which working group they would like to be a part of and 1 goal each group wants to work on. It was agreed to add Sustainability as a working group.

- Education & Stewardship
- Parks
- Recycling & Solid Waste
- Sustainability

Bill Cotte reported that the Borough's Economic Development Commission met for re-organization. They will be working with the Allentown Business Association. There will be a meeting Feb 27th. There is a website called LOCABLE which links businesses and the Borough and lists any event.

Next Regular Meeting: 5 March 2020 7:00 P.M. Borough Hall

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Bill Cotte and Jennifer Elder Brady 2nd to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.