

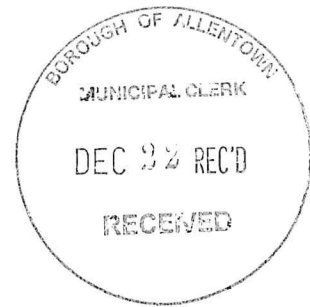
Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

3 September 2020

Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Tindall 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 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, Elaine Saullo, Janice Buchalski, Jeff Ploshay, , Rick Jakober and Councilwoman Martha Johnson. A quorum was present.

Approval of agenda - Unanimous

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Rick Jakober and seconded by Elaine Saullo to approve the July 9, 2020 meeting minutes; the motion was passed.

Correspondence - None

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes) – Wil Borkowski and Councilman John Elder

New Business

Goal: Visit and monitor Open Space areas.

1) Farmer’s Park –

Make a list of priorities including the environmentally sensitive areas making sure they are well documented and maintained.

AEC Thoughts, Comments and Observations on Environmental Commission Visit to the Dr. Farmer Park:

Dr. Farmer Park -

1. In General:

- a. Each Borough park is unique and should be valued.
- b. More prominent signage should be installed to identify the park and its components; move the monument to Dr. Farmer to a more prominent location.

- c. The sign listing park rules should be updated and placed in a more obvious location.
- d. Interpretive signage should be installed to describe the significance of the park.
- e. Environmentally sensitive lands (i.e. wetlands and buffers) should be documented/ mapped in order to understand the areas that need to be protected and should not be disturbed or developed.
- f. Develop a master plan for all parks and open space in the Borough that sets forth the characteristics of each park, the purpose (active v. passive) and uses, approach to maintenance, improvements, connections with other parks, open space and neighborhoods, etc.

2. Maintenance:

- a. Generally maintained better than observed on a previous visit, but litter was evident (cans, bottles, trash).
- b. The racketball and basketball courts could use sprucing up.
- c. The racketball court appears to be used for other activities; if so, the space should be evaluated for the most effective use.
- d. Park furniture includes benches and a gazebo.
- e. There is a stream flowing into the pond that needs cleaning – containers litter the stream area.
- f. Identify what has value as habitat and make sure only native species are planting or allowed to flourish.
- g. Identify invasive species for possible removal.
- h. The boat launch area is in need of repair and/or rebuilding.

Next Steps:

Nancy Tindall said to look into the latest Master Plan for the Parks. Is there a limit to the types of boats allowed in the water? Councilman Elder reported that no gas powered boats were allowed.

Patricia Brown suggested that the AEC explore possible connections with Allentown High School. Students need to earn points for community service before graduation. Maybe some students could monitor/clean up/be watch dogs for Farmer's Park on a regular basis. Wil Borkowski said that it could be club organized, adding science to formalize it. He suggested getting in touch with the Leo Club at the High School. Elaine Saullo offered that the sports teams had community service projects. Maybe they can adopt an area. Nancy Tindall said they could map environmentally sensitive areas and there were opportunities to point out ecological life and habitat.

Talk to Greg Westfall, Samantha Pfeffer, Soil Conservation Service about the appropriate approach to testing and defining the water quality and erosion concerns.

Patricia Brown will send members a copy of the NJDEP 1988 Final Report for the Lake Restoration Project for comparison and suggestions.

Unfinished & Old Business –

Parks & Public Spaces – Janice Buchalski reported that the Parks Committee was working on making sure there was consistency throughout Ashby Park for aesthetics including things like the 8 benches that were proposed. Ashby Park Phase 1 went out to bid. Monmouth County Open Space grant is for \$250K total with \$125K that the Borough will submit from the Open Space Tax.

Next Regular Meeting: 1 October 2020 7 PM Virtual

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Jeff Ploshay & 2nd by Elaine Saullo to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.