

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

3 August 2022

Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in 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:, Bill Cotte, Rick Jakober, Patricia Brown, Nancy Tindall, Wil Borkowski, and Kirstin Jakober, Jeff Ploshay, Jennifer Elder Brady and Councilwoman Martha Johnson; Janice Buchalski was absent. A quorum was present.

Approval of agenda - Motion to approve by Nancy Tindall and 2nd Patricia Brown; motion passed.

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Rick Jakober and 2nd Nancy Tindall to approve the July 7, 2022 meeting minutes; Jennifer Elder Brady abstained; motion was passed.

Old Business -

- Composting Survey Update – Nancy Tindall has gotten some feedback from the ongoing composting survey that is on the Borough’s web page. Results in: 65 people took the survey; 35 are already composting; Nancy suggested getting the Green Team involved. She has spoken with Dolph Geurds about his private composting service. He is willing to speak with the AEC about his service and what other towns are doing regarding composting. Nancy will see if he will give a presentation at our next meeting Sept.1.
- Planning Board update – Jennifer Elder Brady said that a concept plan was presented to the Planning Board for a distillery/brewery. It seemed to be well received. There was no additional information or permits. Nancy Tindall suggested that plantings should be considered to delineate where the distillery/brewery ends and Heritage Park begins if the plans go forward for approval.
- Harvest Festival – Handouts - Bill got in touch with the Borough’s water company to see if he can get water drip measure rulers. Jennifer made the motion to order 250 rulers and

2nd by Jeff Ploshay; motion passed. Jennifer will work on a poster board with the history of the AEC, and information about AEC projects over the years. Patricia Brown said it was established in 1975 and will send her more information to include.

- Pollinator Garden – Patricia Brown spoke about the need for better weeding and upkeep of the Garden. Nancy Tindall made suggestions about signage to educate the public and perhaps get a better buy-in for maintenance. She will check with the Eagle Scout leader to see if there could be a project to make signage. Patricia spoke about a pollinator garden that she saw in Chicago that had a “book” that people could look at to see the different flower and plant species that were in the garden. Rick Jakober will put information and photos on the AEC website.
- Kirsten Jakober reported about her research project for Lafayette College and information for the Allentown ERI. She has been collecting insects with a sweep net and herbs to identify. She has been sampling and doing studies with the conductivity, PH, organic matter, and water in the Allentown area.

New Business –

Walk through Heritage Park to evaluate the progress of the Pollinator Garden and the general health of the Park. Observations from the visit:

1. Think about intentional demarcations between public park land and private land –i.e. issue when the Brewery-Distillery application is before the Planning Board.
2. Representation on the Parks & Public Spaces Space Committee.
3. What is the status of the encroachment issue on the boundary of Heritage along the Mill parking area and the bamboo “forest”?
4. What is the status of the NJDOT grant that was discussed that would include improvements to Dr. Farmer’s Park .
5. Interpretive signage that explains more about the Pollinator Garden. Future Eagle Scout project?
6. A “cartoon” map of Heritage that directs visitors to environmentally significant characteristics of the park – the Pollinator Garden, Wildflower Meadow, trails along Doctor’s Creek, tree walk, et al
7. It would be nice to have clear welcome signs to Heritage at each entryway to the park, and directional signs to trails.
8. Park Rules signs that are more inviting so that people are invited to be stewards of the open space.

Councilwoman Johnson will check to see if there are any answers to our observations about the NJDOT grant status and whether the boat ramp and Mill parking lot issues have been resolved.

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Nancy Tindall and 2nd Wil Borkowski to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.; The motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, September 1, 2022, 7:00 PM in person at Borough Hall and on Zoom.