

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

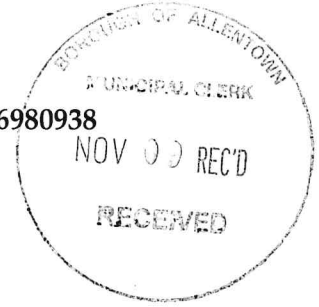
P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

Zoom-<https://zoom.us/j/98956980938> Meeting ID:98956980938

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

6 October 2022

Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in by Chairperson Bill Cotte at 7:04 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, Facebook 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, Bill Cotte, Rick Jakober, Nancy Tindall, Wil Borkowski, Patricia Brown, and Kirstin Jakober, Councilwoman Martha Johnson, and Jeff Ploshay; A quorum was present. Janice Bulchalski has resigned.

Approval of agenda - Motion to approve by Nancy Tindall and 2<sup>nd</sup> Patricia Brown; The motion passed.

Guest Speaker - Rudolph (Dolph) Geurds OneCompostCan by Terra Preta LLC.

Dolph was invited to meet with the Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC) to discuss how we might work together to bring composting services to Allentown.

Nancy Tindall reported that the AEC had a survey on the Borough website to get a barometer of how interested residents might be in composting; the response was about 10%. We are interested in Dolph’s experience with other municipalities and different models he may have for delivering composting services, i.e., individual pick-up vs. central pick-up, etc.

Dolph spoke about his composting service. He said he hoped it would help advance the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals for a better planet in 2030. His business is OneCompostCan and GROUNDSWELL reFARMative which are helping people act with its *Farm-to-Table* and *Table-to-Farm* approach to regenerative farming, eating local and seasonal foods, and building healthy soil by helping people to rescue food scraps to make compost.

It is a family owned composting service located in Hopewell, New Jersey. They redirect food waste from landfills to their local farm, GROUNDSWELL reFARMative, where the materials are sorted, processed, and stored, allowing organic material to decompose naturally while

reducing harmful methane gas released from decaying food. Dolph says, "What we take from the earth must be replaced to keep the balance of nature." OneCompostCan is committed to educating, servicing, and raising awareness to help others change the way they handle waste and preserve the soil necessary for future production of vegetables, fruit, flowers and animals.

GROUNDSWELL reFARMative is a planet positive project initiated in 2022. In collaboration with Terra Preta they are restoring a one hundred acre farmstead in Hopewell Township, New Jersey. Originating as a dairy farm dating back to the early 1800s and with the use of modern agricultural practices corn and soy have been the main harvest for twenty-five years. They are integrating permaculture design and regenerative farming practice to improve soil health, promote plants, and animal diversity creating an advanced healthy coexistence.

They aim to minimize their carbon footprint by reusing resources, implementing renewable energy, sequestering carbon naturally, and operating a commercially viable carbon neutral operation for generations to come. They hope to influence others to take action, no matter how big or small.

Dolph is working with other municipalities and several restaurants. He has a pilot program with Lawrenceville. His business has a Class B exemption from NJDEP to collect leaves, yard debris, brush, pizza boxes, farm food stock, and kitchen waste. He gives compost back to the client. It is aspirated piles, which means they are aerated but not turned. He gives clients 5 gallon brown paper bag lined buckets, 1 time every other week for \$22/month. There is about 6 lbs./bucket. There will be a year end report. Service can be private or public and will be door to door or there can be an ecological dumpster, with designated drop-offs for those that don't want private door to door service.

Nancy stated that 20% of household waste is food waste. It would be better to compost instead of it going into landfill or incinerator. Dolph is working on starting a vermaculture composting method which would be a worm farm.

Nancy said there are a couple of possibilities to be discussed with the Borough to endorse the program. We would need more information on pricing and central pickup. Dolph suggested 2-35gallon cans, 2 times/week would be \$135/month. Pricing and further information is on the website. Nancy said to consider points for the Borough from the tonnage report. She said we should check into the specs for bids and when they are due. See if it is a fixed rate/cost. Bill Cotte stated that there possibly is a 1 year extension on both contracts for recycling and solid waste. Nancy said there was a flat fee for the waste. Linda Cotte asked if there was a surcharge for what can't be recycled.

Minutes Review -A motion was made by Nancy Tindall and 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeff Ploshay to approve the September 1, 2022 meeting minutes; Motion was passed.

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes) – Linda Cotte asked questions regarding the proposed composting program.

Communications -

- *Correspondence* – Resignation from Janice Bulchalski;

New Business –

- Sterling Submission – Site Plan Review – Town Mews – Rick Jakober reported that there was one consideration about the area on the site plan. It shows a swal in back of the

property. We need the topographic map of the area and find out if they plan on filling it in. Jenny Elder Brady stated that if there is isolated wetlands, per NJDEP, there needs to be a General Permit 6 (GP6), if the developer is going to disturb the wetlands. If it is greater than 1/10 of an acre, it needs mitigation. This could deter the developer. She said a key point would be the ecological buffer that would prevent stormwater issues and would be detrimental to tear down. Nancy said it needs more investigation because of environmental concerns, especially about water and sewer arguments. We need more information. Bill said some documents were moved into Goggle Drive. Jenny, Rick, and Nancy will form a subcommittee to better study the documents. They will submit information for the November Planning Board meeting. Rick looked at the ANJEC checklist for development with existing condition. Jenny said they needed to look at the Borough's Master Plan for views and vistas, green space and the entry into town, where the Town Mews is presently located, and look at possible variances, i.e. impervious surfaces, green infrastructure. Rick said looking at the discharge area, the basins aren't big enough for the property. Wil Borkowski suggested that the basins need to be sized properly. Nancy said there was a set of criteria to address impervious coverage, replanting, stormwater issues, conservation element, etc. She asked if an engineering review was done, if so, could we get a copy of it? She will send out the ANJEC Resource Paper on Subdivisions. Bill will send a response to Planning Board secretary, April Claudio. Jeff said he sent out the agenda from the Planning Board.

- Budget Workshop -2023 – Nancy made a motion to direct the chair to submit a budget that reflects the items that we have listed for 2023 as \$3240. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Ploshay; motioned passed.

Other Business

- Fall Festival –Pat Brown had questions about coverage for the event. There was not enough AEC members available. Consensus of opinion suggested the AEC cancel their participation in the Allentown Fall Festival. Nancy Tindall made a motion for Bill Cotte to cancel our participation in the Borough's Fall Festival. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff; motion passed.
- Bill Cotte submitted the budget request for 2023 as follows:

	<b>2023 Budget</b>	
	ANJEC Dues 2023	\$375.00
	ANJEC Road Show	\$250.00
	Asbury Park Press	\$15.00
	Bee City Dues	\$100.00
	Consulting Services ERI/NRI	\$1,000.00
	Rain Barrel Supplies	\$500.00
	Recycling Printing & Postage	\$1,000.00
		\$3,240.00

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Nancy Tindall and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Cotte to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.; The motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, November 3, 2022, 7:00 PM Borough Hall in person and on Zoom.