

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)
P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street
Allentown, New Jersey 08501
8 January 2026
Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in by Chairman Bill Cotte at 7:08 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 X account and by transmitting a notice to two newspapers, THE TIMES and the ASBURY PARK PRESS, as required by law.”

Flag Salute

Reorganization

- Chairman – appointed by the Mayor
- Election of Commission Vice-Chair –Keith Clayton
- Election of Commission Secretary – Patricia Brown
- Elect Education and Stewardship – Nancy Tindall
- Elect Social Media Director – Rick Jakober
- Liaison to Sustainable Jersey/Green Team – Keith Clayton

Role call - Present: Bill Cotte, Rick Jakober, Patricia Brown, Nancy Tindall (7:23), Keith Clayton, Angela Gurrera, and Councilwoman DeKranes; Absent: Greg Westfall, Jennifer Elder Brady, and Wil Borkowski. A quorum was present.

Chairman update – Bill Cotte – Happy New Year all.

Public comments: Limited to three (3) minutes per citizen. State name and address clearly for the record. -none

Minutes- Motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2025 meeting by Bill, 2nd by Pat; Nancy abstained; motion passed and minutes approved.

Communications -

- Correspondence –Bill got a notice from the Save Water Drip Ruler people regarding other products that they offer. He’s looking into Blue Strips for toilets that would show leaks. The rulers were a big hit.
- Email from the Borough regarding the CPR class. \$25/person. If interested in attending, reach out to Bill Cotte, Borough Administrator Laurie Roth, or Councilwoman Nikki Darling.

Old Business

- EV Charging - Keith and Bill made a presentation to Borough Council on December 9th with up to date information regarding Voltek and GreenSpot electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for the Borough. Mayor Fritts is working with PSE&G to pay for the electricity for the Church Street parking lot rather than Lakeview Drive. Keith mentioned that Borough Council would need resolutions for EV parking only spots. Viable infrastructure is needed for EV charging stations. Keith will reach out to GreenSpot for further discussion. Councilwoman DeKranes asked if 2 spots could be in each parking area in the Church Street parking lot.
- ROSI Inventory Update –Jennifer Elder Brady – no report.
- ERI Update – Rick Jakober –has added more sections. Since it is part of the Borough’s Master Plan it must be sent to the Planning Board as the next step. Nancy said the ERI should be part of applications and a conversation on steps to take; where to focus attention. Policy perspective should be leading further discussion. It reinforces to be a tool for planning. It would be an educational opportunity for Boards and how it could/should proceed. Rick responded that the ERI is now a “living document” as something that can be constantly revised and adopted immediately with updates that should show what has changed at the time and has current links to information. It can come before the AEC at meetings for review and changes and updates.
- Pollinator Gardens Discussion – Pat is working on an informational brochure for Borough residents.
- Rain Barrel Workshop Date –Set for Saturday April 25th. Bill will apply for the permit and reserve the Annex. Watershed Ambassador, Felicity Cruz will put together flyers and a presentation. Bill remarked that the cost will be \$25/person and open for interested residents first.
- Projects 2026 – a) ANJEC Roadshow b) Environmental/Shade Tree Commissions Education program

New Business -

- AEC will be hosting a workshop with other EC’s in Allentown’s watershed – Bill Cotte will contact other Environmental Commissions in the area, attendees from our last presentation. He will see if the group had any particular issues or concerns. Nancy will then contact ANJEC Director Jennifer Coffey to set a presentation and agenda. Invitations will also go out to members of the Allentown Environmental Commission, the Allentown Shade Tree Commission members, and Allentown Garden Club members

Committee Reports:

- Watershed Ambassador, Felicity Cruz- reported that rain barrels are available for our Spring Rain Barrel Workshop. The event will take place on Saturday April 25th and hosted at the Borough’s Annex Building. A tent will be set up for overflow room.
- Borough Council Liaison- Councilwoman DeKranes –The Finance Commission had a re-organization. And will be working on a budget. Councilwoman DeKranes is chairing the

Water and Sewer Committee and will be on the Finance Committee until March to align with the budget adoption.

- Watershed Ambassador Update- Felicity Cruz – Felicity sent an email to Allentown High School Environmental teacher, Andrew Plunkett regarding working with the Redbirds/Greenbirds for a salt watch for Indian Run and environmental stewardship training for Indian Run. Needs to pick a date. Rick Jakober said to aim for Saturday May 16th for a stream assessment. Felicity will send out State data for previous stream assessment to Rick.
- Planning & Zoning –Jennifer Elder Brady –none
- Parks & Public Spaces – Wil Borkowski- none
- Recycling & Food Waste – Pat Brown and Nancy Tindall
- Education & Stewardship – Nancy Tindall-
- FaceBook- Rick Jakober – continue to send Rick updates and information related to our environment and commission. We all have access to our FaceBook page.

Other Business

- ANJEC Grant 2026?
- Keith Clayton and Valerie Pellecchia are working on a presentation regarding Native Plants. He discussed possible street lawns ideas.

Adjournment -There being no further business, a motion was made by Keith and 2nd by Pat to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.; motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, March 6, 2025 7:00 p.m. in person at Borough Hall and on Zoom.