

MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Amended May 3, 2021, 7:00 PM

Call to Order: The May 3, 2021 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Erin Militch at 7:00 PM via ZOOM.

FLAG SALUTE

OPENING STATEMENT: This meeting is being conducted during the current National Emergency with remote participation in accordance with guidance provided by the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, as set forth in the Public Notice of the meeting.

The Notice requirements provided for in the Open Public meetings Act have been satisfied. Notice of the meeting was published on April 19, 2021. Said Notice was published in the Burlington County Times and Trenton Times, filed with the Clerk of the Township of Mansfield and posted on the official website of the Township of Mansfield. Notice of which contained the date, time and purpose of this meeting.

ROLL CALL: Todd Kokotajlo, present
Dorothy Wirth, present
Frederick Cain, present
Donald Knezick, present
John Kelly, present
LaVerne Cholewa, present
Frank Pinto, present
Steven Knezick (Alt 1), present
H. Dennis VanMater (Alt 2), absent

Correspondence/Application Review New Business:

- **Update EC Website on Twp. with links for Twp. Residents to access environmental information:** Already uploaded to Website if anyone cannot access please advise and we would review.
 - a. ***Rutgers Cooperative extension Rain garden Rebate program:*** Todd investigated this. It is a technical workshop with Rutgers professional to plan out garden or design it. Install the rain garden, then fill out paperwork to receive rebate. Currently, it is not for Mansfield residents but look to expand to Mansfield.
 - b. ***CoCoRaHS Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & snow:*** Nonprofit, weather enthusiast rain gage. You can order online. Laverne could not access website. Dottie advised in the past there was a member of the National Weather Service, from Mt. Holly on the commission.
 - c. ***BeeCity USA:*** 2 other towns registered and established a committee, Allentown, and Morristown. We are looking for people of interest, put out to Twp. to see if any participants.
 - d. ***Sustainable Jersey:*** This would be a group of residents, "Green team", that would consist of a minimum of 2 people to start process. This program would open of grants and possible funding. Todd reached out to chairperson from Bordentown. There is a Bronze level and Silver level. This could tie into the monthly farmers market if the Twp.

Committee approves it. \$100.00 application fee. We would look for volunteers to start it up. Bob Tallon offered to be on it.

- e. **ERI review update residents to access:** This would work in conjunction with JLUB and Twp. Committee of overall master plan. Frank advised this was on Mayor McGee's radar. Bob advised he would forward to Twp. Committee. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the master plan needs to be rewritten. To update we would need a lot of fact gathering. Delaware Valley was a grant and the Twp. supplied the money; Dottie advised ANJEC was involved with the funding. Todd advised he would reach out to ANJEC for possible grants. We would want to include historical events.

- **Application for White Pine Rd, Individual:** Re-approval to expand septic system for an In-law suite. Did not feel there was any need to follow up with JLUB since re-approval. No questions or concerns to application.
Frank did advise from the JLUB meeting the Amazon site previously reviewed was deemed incomplete.

- **Public Comment:**

Kate Tallon, 53 Oak Lane, New Egypt, Bee friendly pollination project. The Crafts Watershed Assoc. would look at lawns to see who qualified after applicants apply.

Ellen Beth Chianese, Homestead, Columbus, NJ tried to have petition to stop the removal of roughly 80 sweet gum trees throughout Homestead.

Mike Fitzpatrick, he advised he refused to have one of his trees removed after he was advised they would. He wrote complaint. Any development can remove trees if deemed a hazard of any kind.

Dottie and LaVerne brought up the ERI book and who has one and who doesn't. If you leave the commission the book should be returned. How can we get paper copies to those on commission?

- **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by LaVerne Cholewa seconded by Frank Pinto, motion carries.

Respectfully prepared and submitted:

Erin Militch, Environmental Commission Secretary