

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF

DECEMBER 8, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Chairman Nardone. He announced that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Present: Ken McGill, Pat Smith, Walt Birbeck, Jim D'Ambrosio, Amy Wright, John Nardone and Julie Gandy.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of October 13, 2015 by Ken seconded by Pat. Jim amended minutes to reflect that he was to prepare plan of drains in Laurel Lake. Minutes approved as amended.

OLD BUSINESS

ANJEC: Julie report that if everyone receives the *ANJEC News* email at the beginning of the month they should take notice of several articles: *Pressure the Governor to Release the New Water Plan; Ten Ways Climate Change Impacts NJ; and National Regulatory Commission Considers Moving Toward Allowing Four Nuclear Power Plants in Salem County*. Also tonight is the last night for *Giving Tuesday* whereby you can contribute to ANJEC. There are new grants available for Open Space Stewardship Projects up to \$1500 in 2016. Fifteen commissions will be selected.

Plastic Bag Recycling: Pat reported that the signs on top of plastic bag recycling containers are fading. She will pick them up from Tony Rivera. To date we have recycled 180 lbs of plastic bags. Pat also reported that she, John, and Julie went to Maurice River Environmental Commission meeting. They are interested in starting a similar program. Pat told them that the recycler will accept all plastic bags. She also reported that the Laurel Lake community center is not open as yet but as soon as it does she will put a recycling container there.

Sustainable Jersey: Pat reported two upcoming events: Extreme Climate Adaption Planning today and tomorrow 12/8 and 12/9 and 12/10 from 8am to 12:30pm in Newark, NJ; and Urban Water Conference to build awareness of importance of drinking water, storm water, and waste water.

Ken asked if Sustainable Jersey addresses Eco-Tourism? We could discuss with surrounding towns to promote the marketing the regions attractions such as Raptor Festival, BayDay, various trails which could be mapped and placed in strategic locations such as restaurants and hotels outside the township.

Status of Signs at Lake Audrey: John reported that will call Barry to print the narrative sign tomorrow. Jim did a great job with the story. The photo op is tentatively scheduled for 12/19 at 10:30am at Lake Audrey. He also reported that all the paper work for the grant will be sent to ANJEC soon.

Storm Drain Labeling: Ken and John did this on Saturday, 11/21. There were three crews. Ken also reported that the Unimin application for phase 7 & 8 was approved by the Land Use Board. They will be submitting another application that will be next to the ball fields sometime in 2016.

NEW BUSINESS:

John handed out post cards referring to the At-Home Prescription Drug Disposal Program at the State Police Barracks. Amy recommended we put this information on our facebook page, in the post offices and the senior center. Jim will post it in the Laurel Lakes firehouse. All agreed. (SEE ATTACHED)

Tree City USA/Shade Tree Commission (STC): John spoke with ANJEC staff who said the STC has authority over trees in the public ROW and public lands. Tax maps will show the ROW vs. cartway. The mayor appoints the STC of 5-7 members and 2 alternates whose terms, when first organized are staggered 1-5 years, thereafter they are 5 years. There is no need to have an arborist but should have access to a consultant who would be paid from a budget line item. John reported that RFPs have been published. Millville has a STC and is a Tree City USA. STC also has a budget to purchase trees and perform needed maintenance. Arbor Society also gives away trees as park of Arbor Day celebrations.

John reminded the members that January is reorganization. If anyone wants to serve as chairman or secretary call him.

CORRESPONDANCE:

Notices received from utility company that they will be trimming trees and from Adams, Rehmann and Heggan for a septic system.

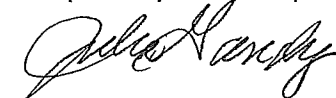
Walt will ask his friend who is an entomologist if we have a Southern Pine beetle problem and John will contact the State Forestry Service.

Jim reported that US Silica was recognized by DEP for their Quail Project. They raised 150 chicks in brooders and will know in the spring how many survived.

Public Comment: Motion by Walt seconded by Ken to open the public portion of the meeting. Motion approved. Seeing no one Walt made motion to close the public portion seconded by Ken. Motion approved.

Motion by Walt seconded by Ken to adjourn. Motion approved at 8:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Julie Gandy, Secretary

Minutes of October 13, 2015 were approved on December 8. There was no meeting in November.

cc: Twp. Committee  
CTEC members