

## **April 22, 2019 Environmental Commission Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Halpern, E. Duerr, McCarthy, Mounier, Russo, Van Ostenbridge  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Stippick  
ALTERNATES PRESENT: M. Duerr  
ALTERNATES ABSENT: Cucunato  
ASSOCIATES PRESENT: R. Duerr  
LIAISONS PRESENT: Deegan  
GUESTS: None

The April 22, 2019 meeting of the Township of Franklin Environmental Commission was called to order by Ms. Halpern at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building.

### **I. Minutes**

The March 25, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Mounier, seconded by Mr. Russo.

### **II. Emergency Response and Management Report**

Mr. Deegan reported that he received a report from Franklin's Emergency Response Coordinator, Mr. DiCesare, regarding Pioneer Metal. NJ DEP is no longer on the site, due to budgetary issues. However, the inside barrels have been removed and the plating machine has been de-assembled and removed.

### **III. Zoning and Planning Board Applications**

There were no applications.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **A. Piney Hollow Natural Area/Green Acres Grant**

- Ms. Halpern reported that the Pinelands Commission has sent another letter with a list of six items remaining to be addressed by our Engineers. She also contacted Bruce Bechtloff at DEP Green Acres but has not yet heard back from him. He did have some health issues and may be out. She will continue to try to contact him.
- Mr. Deegan will ask our Township Administrator about the Jersey barrier replacement, needed on the Unexpected Road entrance.

#### **B. ROSI (Recreational Open Space Inventory)**

Mr. Deegan reported that an owner wants to buy two blocks located on the west side of Malaga Lake, which would enable the building of four houses in the area. Members of the Commission pointed out that these blocks sit right within the Malaga Lake/Scotland Run Greenway, which is recommended for preservation in the Franklin Township Open Space and Recreation Plan. Building right on the lakeside is highly detrimental to lake water quality, which at this time is still of a fairly high level. Owners want lawn to the edge of the lake when a shrub and tree buffer is what is needed.

There was no resolution of this issue.

### **C. Malaga Lake Park**

- The cleanup at the park on April 14 was quite successful. Twenty volunteers participated, due in part to Ms. Cucunato's P.R. efforts.
- A deterrence sign is needed on Malaga Park Drive near the railroad tracks, which seems to be a popular dump site.
- Many plants in the native plant garden are coming back. It looked for a while as if we had lost several.
- Dog stations: Deanna at Public Works was going to order them. Mr. Deegan will check on that.
- Larry Snodgrass is now in charge of the Public Works Dept. His email is [Lsnodgrass@franklintownship.com](mailto:Lsnodgrass@franklintownship.com).

### **C. Community Day:** A discussion of alternatives to plastic use ensued.

- Ms. Halpern had brought container "lids" made of fabric with wax imbedded, along with some oil and resin ingredients, that can be washed, reused, and are biodegradable.
- Mr. Russo mentioned a variety of websites that are focused on reducing plastic use. They include:
  - 5gyres.org – an excellent website that is a plastics pollution study group also trying to create awareness. It is also looking for ambassadors and Mr. Russo has signed up for this.
  - drinksoma.com – for glass water bottles
  - etsy.com – for sink sponges
  - earthhero.com – for bamboo utensils
- Mr. Russo also mentioned that of all the plastic bags given out, only 1% are recycled.

### **D. Rain barrel workshop:** This proposed workshop should probably be held in the big room at the Community Center rather than at Triple Oaks because of the size of the barrels. It could occur on the third Wednesday of May or June, when the big room tends to be open. Jen metzger is the person to contact. It would be very helpful to publicize the workshop through Triple Oaks' email list.

The Township needs a letter with costs from Ms. Cucunato.

### **E. Bird Quest** will occur on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Stippick and Ms. McCarthy will join Mr. Arsenault, along with a friend of Ms. McCarthy, for the survey.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Land for Sale:** Although there are no applications at the Planning or Zoning Boards right now, Mr. Mounier pointed out that there are lots of "land for sale" signs around town. Properties between main and Tuckahoe were put together at a point in the past for a planned subdivision on a few hundred acres. The owner, Eric Hofner, passed away but his daughter has inherited.

There is survey activity on the south side of Route 40, next to the large wet parcel in which Scotland Run is located below the dam. This parcel is one that the

Environmental Commission believes should be retained by the Township.

**B. Zoning Map:** This map needs updating. Mr. Deegan advised that the Township Engineer will be doing this.

**C. Trash Problems:** Mr. Mounier advised that there is trash on Main Rd. that was collected by prisoners into bags but the bags are being torn up by the “can man,” a resident who collects cans for recycling. The bags need to be picked up. Mr. Deegan has asked Nancy and Larry to take care of this.

**VII. Mail Review/Conferences/Announcements** – A letter from NJDEP Green Acres about revisions to the Recreational Trail funding project was received. It makes reference to stalled projects. Ms. Halpern is concerned that our Piney Hollow project is beginning to look like a stalled project to DEP.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Upon motion by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. E. Duerr, and unanimously approved the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne McCarthy

**Please note that the next meeting of the Environmental Commission is Monday, May 20, at 7:30 pm. This is the third Monday of the month, rather than the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, because of the Memorial Day holiday on May 27.**