

January 13, 2021 Environmental Commission Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brandt, Doherty, E. Duerr, M. Duerr, McCarthy, Stippick
ALTERNATES ABSENT: Cavone, Link
LIAISONS ABSENT: Doyle, Flaim
GUESTS PRESENT: R. Duerr and B. Halpern

The January 13, 2021, meeting of the Township of Franklin Environmental Commission was a virtual meeting on Zoom and was called to order by Mr. Stippick at 7:32 pm.

- I. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the November 22, 2021, meeting were not approved at the December meeting because of the lack of a quorum. Therefore, upon a motion by Mr. Stippick, seconded by Ms. Duerr, the minutes were unanimously approved at this meeting.

- II. **Environmental Commission Appointments, Elections, and Meetings**
 - A. **Appointments:** Evan Duerr was appointed to the Commission for a 3-year term ending 12/31/24. Suzanne McCarthy and Jonathan Stippick were reappointed, also for 3-year terms. Mr. Stippick will serve on the Planning Board and will be the liaison to that Board for the Environmental Commission. Mr. Tinney recently resigned, and his seat needs to be filled. Mr. Stippick will check with the Alternate members, Giovanni Cavone and Jeffrey Link, to determine if either of them wish to be recommended for the Commissioner position. He will also check with Al Wheeler who has expressed interest in the position.

 - B. **Elections:**

Upon a motion by Ms. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Brandt, Mr. Stippick was nominated to be the Chair of the Commission. His nomination was unanimously approved.

Upon a motion by Mr. Stippick, seconded by Ms. Doherty, Ms. McCarthy was nominated to be the Vice-Chair. Her nomination was unanimously approved.

 - C. **Meetings**

As agreed at the previous meeting, we will now meet face-to-face but will retain a digital meeting component. We will also shift our meetings to the 2nd Thursday of each month, so as not to conflict with School Board meetings. Mr. Stippick reported that meetings at the Community Center are a problem on Thursdays. We can meet in the municipal building conference room, as we did in the past, but we did not have a good online connection at that locale. Mr. Stippick will check with Barbara Freijomil about internet access there, now. Ms. Doherty will go in person to the Community Center to see if a room can be arranged.

- III. **Emergency Response and Management Report:** There was no emergency report.

- IV. **Zoning and Planning Board Applications:** There were no applications.

- V. **Old Business**
 - A. **Piney Hollow:**
 1. Ms. Halpern reported that the Pinelands Commission had decided that we do not need a general wetlands permit because we are not creating a trail in the wetlands or in the buffer. They will

refund the fee to the Township. They are still reviewing the rest of the information sent by our engineer in response to their last request letter.

2. The sheriff's sale of the property at the corner of Piney Hollow and Unexpected Road – block 6602/2 - which was scheduled for January 5, 2022, has been postponed to March. The property is currently being cleaned up, fortunately.
3. Mr. Stippick reported that the year-long survey of the Piney Hollow Natural Area has ended. He and Joe Arsenault documented 890 different species identified at Piney Hollow, of which 798 were confirmed by photograph.

B. Malaga Lake Park:

Mr. Stippick advised that the Franklin Township Unity Advisory Committee is doing a cleanup at the park on Martin Luther King Day, January 17, from 10 to 2. He has received a letter from Sierra Hart of the Unity Committee inviting the EC to participate in this event.

VI. New Business

- A. Mr. Brandt advised that there is an application to the Planning Board requesting a site plan waiver for putting a spa and wellness center into the office building on Delsea Dr. that has the Allstate office in it.
- B. Mr. Brandt also reported that an ordinance has been introduced to create a new department of municipal government – a Land Use, Development, and Planning Dept. The Zoning Officer will be part of this department and, possibly, housing inspections will be included there. It was noted that this department sounds similar to the position that Patty Knobloch held in the past.
- C. It was reported that there is an option on the Growchowski property on Fries Mill Rd. held by a solar company, Dakota Power Partners, which has recently been bought by another company. It was agreed that Franklin Township still needs a solar ordinance to guide the locations and specifics of solar projects.

VII. Mail Review/Announcements/Conferences: There were two communications from the Pinelands Commission, as follows:

- A. A letter to Anthony Pustizzi dated Jan. 10, 2022, regarding Application # 1989-1068.004, Block 101, Lots 1.01 & 11.01 Borough of Buena and Block 6703, Lot 1 Franklin Township regarding the reschedule of a public hearing pertaining to approval of a 3-lot minor subdivision that must meet requirements for accessory to an agriculture operation provision or in accordance with the cultural housing provision.
- B. A letter to Todd R. Harnack (by email) dated Jan. 3, 2022, regarding Application # 1987-0969.003, Block 6401, Lot 74 on Whitehall Road in Franklin Township requesting a Letter of Interpretation (LOI) as to the number of Pinelands Development Credits (PDCs) which are allocated to this 44.86-lot.

VIII. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ms. Doherty, seconded by Mr. Brandt, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Submitted by Suzanne McCarthy, Acting as Secretary