

February 10, 2022, Environmental Commission Minutes

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

The February 10, 2022, meeting of the Township of Franklin Environmental Commission was a virtual meeting on Zoom and was called to order by the Chair, Mr. Stippick, at 7:31 pm.

I. **Minutes:** Upon a motion by Ms. M. Duerr, seconded by Mr. E. Duerr, the minutes of the January 13, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved.

II. Environmental Commission Appointments and Meetings:

A. **Appointments:** Mr. Tinney recently resigned, and his seat needs to be filled. Mr. Link expressed interest in the position. Mr. Stippick will recommend to the Township that he be appointed.

B. **Meetings:** Thursdays are a problem for Mr. Link. A discussion of the conflict with School Board meetings ensued. Those meetings are the 2nd Monday of the month, with additional special meetings called, usually on Wednesdays, such as on March 9. There doesn't seem to be a real conflict with the 4th Monday of the month. It was agreed to return to that regular date, beginning in March. Our next meeting will be on March 28.

Ms. Doherty will check with the Community Center about the availability of space on that Monday. Thursdays were a problem with no meeting space available except the conference room, which is small. Mr. Stippick did get internet information from Ms. Freijomil for the municipal building conference room, but we aren't sure it will work in that room. It does appear to work in the courtroom, however.

Mr. Stippick will send a confirmation about the date and location of the March meeting.

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

IV. **Zoning and Planning Board Applications:** There was one application for a site plan waiver, SP22-1, Elizabeth Riener, for a business at 1964 Delsea Drive. The Environmental Commission had "No Comment" except to advise the applicant that County approval will need to be sought since this is a change of use which may impact the septic system.

V. Old Business:

A. **Piney Hollow:** There was no new information.

B. Malaga Lake Park:

1. Mr. Stippick reported that a flyer was created for the April 23 clean-up and invasive species removal event. He sent the flyer to EC members. We should be prepared to help distribute

the flyer closer to the date. The Franklin Township Unity Alliance will participate in this event. We can also plant some additional plants in the garden there on that day. Mr. Stippick and Mr. Arsenault will red-tag invasive plants in advance.

2. The clean-up scheduled for Martin Luther King Day was cancelled due to very high winds.

VI. New Business:

- A. **ANJEC dues:** An invoice for the 2022 ANJEC membership was sent to Ms. McCarthy, who submitted it last year. Upon a motion by Ms. McCarthy, seconded by Ms. Doherty, and unanimously approved, it was agreed to renew the ANJEC membership. Ms. McCarthy will update the member list and forward it to Mr. Stippick, who will submit it for payment.
- B. **Franklin Township Farmland Preservation Plan:** The Plan is completed and has been presented to the public. It will be adopted by the Planning Board at their February 15 meeting.
- C. **Annual Report:** The Annual Report for 2021 needs to be written and submitted to the Township Committee. Mr. Stippick would like to work on it, using last year's report as a template. Ms. McCarthy offered to help if needed.
- D. **New Potential Projects:** Ms. McCarthy suggested that the EC consider taking on some potential projects. These include information to businesses and the public about the NJ No Plastics law, which takes effect in May of this year. Information about this is at NJNOPlastics.org.
Another project is assisting Franklin Township to plan for the changing climate and build resiliency into local governance. There is a Climate Resiliency Toolkit available (at <https://toolkit.climate.gov/tool/resilient-nj-local-planning-climate-change-toolkit>) that guides municipalities through the process of creating a climate change-related vulnerability assessment and developing local climate resilience strategies, as required by changes to New Jersey's Municipal Land Use Law signed into law in February 2021. The Environmental Commission could initiate the vulnerability assessment process and contribute to it, although several parts will require professional help. Ms. McCarthy will email information on both projects to EC members.

VII. Mail: There was no mail.

VIII. Adjournment: Upon a motion by Ms. Doherty, seconded by Ms. McCarthy, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Submitted by Suzanne McCarthy, acting as Secretary