February 25, 2019 Environmental Commission Minutes

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

The February 25, 2019 meeting of the Township of Franklin Environmental Commission was called to order by Ms. Halpern at 7:36 pm in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building.

I. Minutes
The January 28, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Mounier, seconded by Mr. Russo.

II. Emergency Response and Management Report
No report was given.

III. Guest Issues
No guest issues.

IV. Zoning and Planning Board Applications
A. ZB 19-02
A zoning variance application was submitted by Anthony and Noelle Gaetano on Main Road for Block 7002, Lot 38.01 for an oversized pole barn of 2,880 sq. ft., with a sideyard setback of only 8 ft. The EC comment was that stormwater runoff from the new building needs to be directed away from the neighbor’s property, given the proximity of the building to the lot line. It was suggested that an easy solution is to position the building more in the lot center.

V. Old Business
A. Piney Hollow Natural Area/Green Acres Grant
Ms. Halpern reported that the application with the revisions requested by the Pinelands Commission has been completed and sent back to the Commission by our Engineers. If the Commission accepts the application now, there will need to be a hearing for public input. Then the Commission will meet again to vote on the application.

A cleanup on the property still needs to be done by Public Works, in consultation with the Engineers. It is suggested that this should occur before spring when leaf out occurs and it becomes more difficult to do. Receipts for where the removed trash goes will also be needed as part of the grant requirements.

The Jersey barriers are no longer at the first entrance on Unexpected Rd. and need to be replaced. Mr. Deegan will address this.
B. ROSI (Recreational Open Space Inventory)
Mr. Deegan reported that he and Ms. Flaim will be looking at the inventory and will try to get to this soon.

C. Malaga Lake Park
- Mr. Deegan advised that Ms. Flaim and Ms. Petsch-Wilson are taking on implementation of planning for Malaga Lake Park.
- In discussion, it was agreed that a crushed stone/cinder track would be preferable to an asphalt one.
- The drainage problem in the field near the playground could be intercepted. The existing pipe drains only 15 feet from the lake.
- Mr. Deegan was advised that there is a bad dog poop problem and that we need to put dog waste pickup stations at entrances to the nature trail heads as well as other areas of the park. Various recent innovations were discussed including using rice paper bags instead of plastic and having a composting barrel right there which would eliminate the need for Public Works to pick up dog waste trash. Mr. Deegan will look into this. He has some catalogs for dog stations.
- Mr. Deegan also advised that there is a group in the Township that wants a dog park and wanted it at Forest Grove. That location is not viable. Mr. Deegan has done a lot of research on dog parks and offered the space at the park on Washington Ave. but the group was not interested. Now a part of Malaga Lake Park has been offered. This would consist of two sections, one for large and one for small dogs, of about 100’ x 100’ but it is dependent on the group raising funds to create this. There could be a fee for use collected via the license.
- Mr. Russo offered to make the signs needed at Malaga Lake Park directing people to the Nature Trail, if someone will send him the text for them.

VI. New Business
A. Bird Quest: Bird Quest will occur on the first Saturday in May – May 4. In previous years we have contributed to the costs of Bird Quest. On a motion by Ms. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Russo, it was unanimously agreed to contribute $100 to the Bird Quest fund.

B. Stormwater Projects: Ms. Halpern distributed a list of the measures the Township must take to be in compliance with the stormwater rules. We need to see what the EC could most usefully conduct or sponsor.

C. Community Day 2019: It was agreed that we should reuse the recycling exhibit that was created last year, since it was not taken apart and is stored in the Township building shed. We can update the themes with sustainability, for example by adding info on what not to buy, what options there are, where to obtain more eco-friendly products, etc. We could give out bamboo straws. The theme might be more accurately expressed as “Reduce Your Footprint.” It was suggested that if anyone finds alternative products for personal use, that you buy them and bring them to a meeting.
VII. Mail Review/Conferences/Announcements – One letter was received from the Pinelands Commission regarding a request for a Letter of Interpretation for Gorrell Brothers. The question was raised if we receive all the mail from the Pinelands Commission, especially when we are cc’d on their letters. Ms. Halpern stated that she thinks she is getting everything. However, Mr. Deegan offered to remind Barbara Freijomil to give the EC hard copies of all such correspondence.

VIII. Adjournment
Upon motion by Mr. Mounier, seconded by Mr. Russo, and unanimously approved the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne McCarthy