

February 26, 2020 Environmental Commission Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Halpern, E. Duerr, M. Duerr, McCarthy, Mounier (by phone), Stippick
MEMBERS ABSENT: Cucunato
ALTERNATES PRESENT: None appointed
ASSOCIATES Present: R. Duerr
LIAISONS ABSENT: Doyle, Flaim
GUESTS: None

The February 26, 2020 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 Community Building.

I. Minutes

The January 22, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Duerr, seconded by Mr. Mounier, with one correction: the meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Community Building rather than the Municipal Building.

II. Emergency Response and Management Report

There was no Emergency Management report.

III. Guests: There were no Guests.

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

V. Old Business

A. Piney Hollow:

1. Ms. Halpern reported that the CME Engineer would be submitting the construction plans to the Township this week. These will need to be reviewed by Green Acres. The financial cost estimates remain to be completed. Ms. Halpern advised that her goal is to finish this project by the end of 2020.
2. Mr. Mounier suggested that Public Works could begin filling holes in the Piney Hollow trails now. That is not dependent on construction plans. He will talk to Dave Deegan about that.
3. Mr. Stippick reported that the first dike broke two years ago, at which time that lake drained. Since then, beavers have dammed that dike and the lake has refilled to previous levels. The main trail from the parking lot is now flooded, which may be due to the high water level, although it's not clear if they are related.
4. Mr. Mounier described "beaver deceivers" which are underwater pipes that drain from the lake and that beavers don't know are there. This is probably the best solution to the beaver dams.

B. Malaga Lake Park:

1. Ms. Halpern reported that there is glass on the nature trail at its upper end. It may be glass migrating from the glass dump just above where the trail turns and heads back or it may be new debris. She removed some of the pieces so that her dog would not step on them.

Ms. Halpern also reported that the dog bag stations appear to be working as there was no dog waste along the trail.

2. A discussion ensued on whether to seek another Green Acres grant for Malaga Lake Park in the fall. It was agreed that the Township Committee should be asked for a decision on this at its

work session on March 10. According to Steve LeMoyné from CME, the playground does not meet current safety standards, so that should be the first item improved at the park.

C. Environmental Movies: There was no new action to report.

D. Compliance Assistance: Ms. Halpern reported that she heard from the owner of Delsea Florist who has hired an attorney and needs any materials on the situation adjacent to her property for the attorney's review. The building on that adjacent property is being rebuilt but without a construction permit although the Township advised that they have a plumbing and electrical permits. They may have just recently applied for them.

According to Gloucester County, which inquired of the State, the mercury levels at the site were low.

The road into the site has been widened and asphalt millings have been applied to it. Now they owner will either have to seal the millings or remove them because it's not legal to use them.

E. 2020 Projects: This topic was tabled to the next meeting.

F. Community Day: Mr. Stippick described his idea for a main theme – that of converting lawn to wildflowers. A secondary theme would be encouraging the use of battery and electric-powered yard equipment. He has ideas for the display including before and after photographs, as well as the pollinator pictures that were created for an earlier display.

VI. New Business:

A. Recruiting new members: Various methods of alerting residents that they are welcome to participate in/join the Environmental Commission were discussed. They included advertising in *The Sentinel*, posting notices on Facebook – Franklin Township Nature Notes and on the Township website and Channel 9, and recruiting face-to-face at Community Day. Ms. Halpern will develop an ad and notices.

B. Recycling: There is confusion about whether glossy paper can be recycled. If this is newer information, how can the Township communicate with the public about it? Obviously the Township website should be used, among other potential methods. Jay will explore the question of whether the information about the glossy paper is accurate.

VII. Mail Review/Announcements/Conferences:

A. Notice from ANJEC: ANJEC is fighting single use plastics (especially plastic bags) in New Jersey and would like a resolution of support for this from Franklin Township.

VIII. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. Mounier, seconded by Mr. Stippick, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne McCarthy