

May 23, 2022, Environmental Commission Minutes

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

The May 23, 2022, meeting of the Township of Franklin Environmental Commission was a virtual meeting on Zoom and was called to order by Mr. Stippick at 7:35 pm.

I. Minutes: The minutes of two meetings were reviewed.

Upon a motion by Ms. M. Duerr, seconded by Mr. E. Duerr, the minutes of the March 28, 2022, meeting were approved.

Upon a motion by Mr. Stippick, seconded by Ms. M. Duerr, the minutes of the April 25, 2022, meeting were approved.

II. Emergency Response and Management Report: There were no emergency reports.

III. Applications: One Planning Board application and one Zoning Board application were considered. Unfortunately, both had insufficient information for the Environmental Commission to review them properly, although Mr. Stippick had tried to obtain that information.

A. Planning Board: Application PA 22-05 is a lot line adjustment for block 6804/lots 27 and 29, to be heard on June 21. There was no site plan.

The EC's review: Due to the limited information provided, the Environmental Commission cannot make a comment.

B. Zoning Board: Application ZB 22-12 is an appeal of a zoning permit denial by the Zoning Officer for block ? /lots 33, 38 and 39., to be heard on June 8. The denied application was for a bulk variance to increase the fence height. No reason was given for the denial. The EC did have some other questions such as "Is there septic service in the accessory building or is it connected to the house, or is there no septic service?"

The EC's review: Due to the limited information provided, the Environmental Commission cannot make a comment.

IV. Old Business:

A. Piney hollow: Ms. Halpern advised that she talked to the CME Engineer who said that the Pinelands Commission responded to the most recent application but still wants some additional information. Ms. Halpern is not clear on why this is still dragging on. There is no need for further stormwater planning because no trees are being removed and the stormwater related to the boardwalk area has already been addressed. Mr. Stippick will talk to Tim Doyle to see if Mr. Doyle can find out why this is taking so long. We are now in the 3rd year of the grant without any improvements on the ground.

B. Bird Quest: Mr. Stippick reported that he and Joe Arsenault did a bird count for Bird Quest on

May 7. They went to Malaga Lake Park, Piney Hollow, and Joe Arsenault's backyard. The weather was very poor but they still managed to record 55 species.

- C. **Schipani property:** Mr. Stippick asked Ms. McCarthy to send him information on this property.
- D. **Solar ordinance:** Mr. Brandt advised that the solar ordinance is up for adoption at the Township Committee meeting tomorrow (May 24). It does not incorporate the EC's recommendations. Ms. Halpern advised that she attended the first hearing and made the recommendations verbally. The EC had sent a written version to the Committee as well.

V. New Business:

- A. **New Stormwater Requirements for Public Education and Outreach by Municipalities:** New rules pertaining to stormwater education/outreach require municipalities to conduct activities that will enable them to acquire a total of 12 points annually.

The Environmental Commission members discussed ways it could help the Township do this. These included

- having a stormwater display at Community Day (1 point)
- handing out brochures at Community Day (part of a distribution worth 2 points)
- conducting a litter cleanup (3 points)
- organizing a workshop done by a Watershed Ambassador (4 points)
- putting together information for the township website (1 point)
- providing information that can be part of a mailing or that can be included in the calendar that is mailed to residents each year (3 points).

- B. **Solid Waste Plan:** The County Recycling facility is a Class B facility. There is an application to make it a Class C, which is one that can accept vegetative material, specifically grass and brush. This will perhaps allow it to make compost. There are two hearing on this application, on June 2 and on June 15.
- C. **Bird List from Piney Hollow:** Mr. Stippick advised that Joe Arsenault has compiled a list of all the plants identified at Piney Hollow. Joe has also offered to make available the advanced information on wetlands that he has, if we need it.
- D. **Meredith Farms:** Some information was shared about the Meredith Farms property. The Township is unable to provide potable water as required by the developer. The Township wants to end the agreement it has with Stanker and Galetto. However, the Township will still need to pay interest on the loan it took for meeting the development needs of this property. Part of the problem is that the water is contaminated with radionuclides, which are too costly to ameliorate for a large amount of water.

VI. Adjournment: Upon a motion by Mr. Brandt, seconded by Ms. M. Duerr, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne McCarthy, Acting Secretary.

The next meeting of the Environmental Commission is on Monday, June 27, 7:30 pm.