

June 27, 2022, Environmental Commission Minutes

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

The June 27, 2022, meeting of the Township of Franklin Environmental Commission was both a live meeting in the municipal building conference room and a virtual meeting on Zoom. It was called to order by Mr. Stippick at 7:32 pm.

I. Minutes: Upon a motion by Mr. Stippick, seconded by Mr. Brandt, the minutes of the June 25, 2022, meeting were approved.

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

III. Applications: There was one **Zoning Board** application: Application ZB 22-14 is for a use variance for a property at 321 Leonard Cake Rd, block 4203/lot 14, filed by the owner, Valentino Properties LLC. The application is to lease the existing metal garage structure to a small commercial trucking company for truck storage and minor maintenance of the vehicles.

The EC's comments included: 1) Possible septic system issues if there is an increase in flow due to an increased number of employees which would require county approval of the water supply and sewage disposal systems; 2) Concern that washing of commercial trucks without appropriate infrastructure to catch and filter runoff can result in groundwater contamination of neighboring residential wells; and 3) Offensive noise pollution from commercial trucks may exceed the lawful sound decibel limit.

IV. Old Business:

A. Piney hollow: Ms. Halpern reported that she called the CME Engineer twice but hadn't heard back. The situation seems to be at the same point it was last month – that the Pinelands Commission responded to the most recent application but still wants some additional information. Mr. Stippick will talk to Tim Doyle this month to see if Mr. Doyle can find out why this is taking so long. We are now in the 4th year of the grant without any improvements on the ground.

B. Moth Survey: Mr. Stippick reported that he and a friend did a moth survey in June and saw 50 different species at Piney Hollow. His friend also did one at Malaga Lake Park. He and Mr. Stippick will continue to do surveys throughout Gloucester County. The variety of moths is a good bioindicator of habitat health.

The last week of July is National Moth Week and there is an event on either July 24 or 30. Mr. Stippick will get details and try to post information about it on Facebook. Perhaps the sign in front of the municipal building could also be used.

Moth Week is actually international in scope. It was initiated in NJ by the East Brunswick Environmental Commission. Interestingly, there is a "Friends of the Env. Commission" in East

Brunswick.

C. Malaga Lake Park: There was nothing new to report except that the park is very popular and has many visitors, especially fishermen.

D. Community Day: Mr. Stippick suggested that we use and just add to existing panels of information on the birds, butterflies, etc. of Franklin Township, instead of creating anything new. We can have a tank with lake critters again, which is very popular. We will have pamphlets on light pollution that were found by Ms. M. Duerr and that we now have in hand.

Ms. McCarthy suggested that we consider borrowing one or more of the games that ANJEC has available for EC use, to add more activity to the booth. She will contact ANJEC. She also advised that she submitted the application for space and requested that we be placed on a more central aisle, rather than on the outer one where we were last year. It simply doesn't get the same level of visitor traffic.

Staffing of the booth from 11 – 4: Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Stippick will be available and Mr. R. Duerr will be available for set up and break down. Ms. McCarthy's brother and nephew will help with that, as well. More people are needed for the staffing, to relieve Mr. Stippick and Ms. McCarthy occasionally during the 5-hour stay.

V. New Business: There was no new business.

VI. Mail: A NJDEP incident report was received about the property at 2034 Piney hollow Rd., at the intersection of Piney Hollow and Dutch Mill, for a suspected hazardous substance discharge notification. Case no. 22-06-22-1746-11.

This property has a lot of violations and Franklin's Zoning Officer has been having a difficult time with enforcement. In addition to at least 25+ pieces of heavy equipment on the site, there is used oil sitting out and deteriorating, plastic waxed boxes are being burned, there is alleged groundwater contamination, there are unclean and smelly pens for pigs and chickens, and the animals are feeding on top of the alleged contaminated area. The Franklin Township Committee recently passed a resolution to take the owner to Superior Court about the violations. The owner is Larry Biagi.

VII. Adjournment: Upon a motion by Ms. Doherty, seconded by Mr. Brandt, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne McCarthy, Acting Secretary.

The next meeting of the Environmental Commission is on Monday, July 25, 7:30 pm.