

## August 22, 2022, Environmental Commission Minutes

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

The August 22, 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 7:35 pm.

I. **Minutes:** Upon a motion by Mr. Stippick, seconded by Ms. M. Duerr, the minutes of the July 25, 2022, meeting were approved.

II. **Emergency Response and Management Report:** There were two reports by letter from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection regarding incidents:

- A. A suspected hazardous substance discharge notification, NJDEP case number: 22-08-08-1322-03A, reported an approximately one-gallon diesel spill from cleaning a diesel pump that occurred at the Wawa site in Franklinville on August 8 and was reported by Wawa. The cleanup was reported as being completed.
- B. A suspected hazardous substance discharge notification NJDEP case number: 22-08-02-1254-29A, reported that a fuel oil sheen appeared on Iona Lake on or about JULY 15 that came from a boat. The responsible party was identified as Robert Foote of 20 Clubhouse Drive. The sheen had dissipated by the time of the anonymous notice to NJDEP on August 3, 2022. No further action is required.

III. **Applications:** There were three **Planning Board** applications:

- A. Planning Board: An application to the Planning Board was reviewed on August 16 but was never submitted to the Environmental Commission. It was from Gallardo Investments LLC At 318 Ewan Rd., Mullica Hill, NJ 08062 for conversion of the former adult bookstore on Delsea Drive to a youth wrestling camp. Waivers were requested for the site plan. The building is being renovated.  
Although the Environmental Commission did not comment on this application, a concern about ventilation (the building has no windows) was mentioned at the EC meeting.
- B. ZB22-15 is for an application by James Coia for a use variance to install a ground-mount solar array of 42 panels in the rear yard of a 2-acre property at 543 S. Bluebell Rd.; block 70023/lot 19.02.  
Environmental Commission comment was "No Comment."
- C. ZB22-16 is an application by Michael and Lisa Meddings for a bulk variance to build an oversized pole barn/garage of 1,800 sf (30' x 60') with a 360 sf lean-to at the rear of the building at 2177

Williamstown Rd.; block 2002/ lots 33 & 33.01. This is a 2-lot property. The barn will be on one lot and the house is on the other lot. The lot line is to be removed. No commercial activity is anticipated in the barn. There are wetlands on the rear of the property but an LOI has been obtained.

Environmental Commission Comment: Tree clearing should be limited to reduce chances of stormwater runoff to adjacent property.

#### IV. Old Business:

- A. Piney hollow:** Mr. Stippick emailed Tim Doyle shortly after the last EC meeting regarding the delay in getting required information back to the Pinelands Commission so that the NJDEP trail project can go forward. Mr. Doyle emailed CME about this and is waiting for a response. We are now in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the grant without any improvements on the ground. Mr. Stippick advised about the urgency.

Ms. Halpern also went to a Township Committee meeting and urged action on this.

Mr. Stippick reported that he visited Piney Hollow and it is very dry. However, there are no new issues there.

#### **B. Malaga Lake Park:**

- 1. Moth Survey:** Mr. Stippick reported that a moth survey at the park was conducted on July 30 from 8:30 pm to 12:00 am but he and his friend, Jeff Mollenhauer, were there until 3 AM. The event was very successful in terms of the number of moths and other insects identified (290 observations and 175 species) and, also, in the attendance of people who are interested in moths. The event at Malaga was posted on [nationalmothweek.org](http://nationalmothweek.org). and 20 people attended on July 30. The link to the list of moths and insects was sent to EC members and is also on the Township website via a QR code. The link is:

[https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?d1=2022-07-30&d2=2022-07-31&place\\_id=any&project\\_id=122287&subview=table](https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?d1=2022-07-30&d2=2022-07-31&place_id=any&project_id=122287&subview=table).

- 2.** Mr. Stippick also reported that dead fish were found around the boat launch pier. He reported this to the DEP Environmental Emergency line but it is possible these fish were dumped there rather than dying from some sort of contaminant or lack of oxygen.

- C. Community Day:** Mr. Stippick reported that he was asked by Jim Winckowski of CME Engineers if the Environmental Commission could help with Stormwater Outreach/Education, which is a requirement on the municipality of the Stormwater Regulations. Mr. Stippick emailed in reply twice that the EC could do so but never received a response, so we have no information about the specifics of the requirement.

Mr. Stippick will get the 2021 Environmental Commission Annual Report laminated, to put out at Community Day. He will try to bring some live moths in the moth enclosure he has.

Mr. Stippick will ask Joe Arsenault to help him collect water critters with the seine net. Ms. McCarthy has a tank for display use which she will bring to the event for these critters.

Ms. McCarthy will check on whether the Recreation Commission/Community Day organizers are providing tables as they did last year, or whether we need to bring our tables. (we have 4 and

Mr. Stippick owns another two).. She will also arrange with the Public Works Dept. for access to the Main Rd. storage facility to pick up EC materials and the tents and easels

Ms. McCarthy reported that she arranged with ANJEC to borrow their water wheel game, to add more activity to the booth. She will also arrange for use of, and pick up, the two display stands to be borrowed from the So. Jersey Land & Water Trust.

Staffing of the booth from 11 – 4: Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Stippick and Mr. E. Duerr will be available. Ms. McCarthy's brother and nephew will help with set up and break down, and her nephew, Andrew Bolan, will help with staffing as well.

- D.** Ms. Halpern mentioned that the Township Zoning Officer has been trying to enforce Township rules. The pool manufacturing facility is now a lawsuit but could be shut down by the police or the fire marshal. However, neither wishes to act without attorney guidance. This violation has been going on for a year. The air pollution impact on the crops of Sam Gorrell, the adjacent farmer, is a question.

Other legal actions currently underway pertain to the Piney Hollow Rd. farm and the Main Rd. property, which have both been described in previous minutes.

- V. New Business:** Ms. Halpern reported that she attended a School Board meeting recently because of some environmentally related and cost issues.

The Board is planning to replace their fuel storage tank. Ms. Halpern asked several questions about this and suggested comparing the cost to getting electric vehicles.

The school on Lake Rd. is up for sale and a land survey is needed. The Board has only received one quote – from CME Engineering for \$7,700. Ms. Halpern suggested that this is a higher price than surveys usually require, and she suggested expanding the bid time.

The Board has received a quote from CME of \$57,000 for a preliminary investigation of septic systems at all three schools. Her questions included asking if the septic systems are failing, what the cost is of pumping out the systems, and if this is indeed for a preliminary investigation, among other questions. Ms. Halpern offered to give the Board some alternate engineer names to invite for a bid. The Board did not act on the bid at this meeting.

- VI. Mail:** The notifications from NJDEP, described earlier under “II. Emergency Response and Management Report,” were the only mail received.

- VII. Adjournment:** Upon a motion by Ms. M. Duerr seconded by Mr. Stippick and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne McCarthy, Acting Secretary.

**The next meeting of the Environmental Commission is on Monday, September 26, 7:30 pm. It will be both a live meeting in the Municipal Bldg. conference room and also a Zoom meeting.**