

## September 26, 2022, Environmental Commission Minutes

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

The September 26, 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 7:33 pm.

I. **Minutes:** Upon a motion by Mr. E. Duerr, seconded by Mr. Stippick, the minutes of the August 22, 2022, meeting were approved.

II. **Emergency Response and Management Report:** There no emergency response or management reports.

III. **Applications:** There were no Planning Board or Zoning Board applications:

### IV. Old Business:

A. **Piney hollow:** Mr. Stippick reported that the CME engineer has sent the requested information in response to the Pinelands Commission March 11, 2022, letter regarding the grant project. As a reminder, this project involves rerouting the trail that currently runs parallel to the lake and is often flooded, establishing some boardwalk where the trail cannot be rerouted, building a kiosk for the parking lot, putting in some benches, and establishing permanent gates that prevent vehicular access without being unlocked.

### B. Malaga Lake Park:

1. **Fish:** Mr. Stippick reported that a lot of fish were present when he and Joe Arsenault seined for samples for the tank for the EC booth at Community Day. They got 5 different species as well as a frog and freshwater shrimp. All were put back into the lake at the end of the day.
2. **Sign:** Mr. Stippick also reported that he saw a lot of trash on the nature trail. We need a fall cleanup. Also, we still need a new sign near the main parking lot that directs people to the nature trail. Visitors just don't know it exists. Perhaps this is a sign that Public Works could create.
3. **EC Budget:** A grant application was submitted to fund the creation of a sign at the nature trail start that would show a trail map and the different "stops" that are currently only depicted in the paper trail guide. Ms. Doherty provided some information for this application. We never heard the outcome. Perhaps we could use EC budget money for this project, but we don't know exactly what the budget is. Mr. Stippick will contact our CFO about this.

Other items for which we need funding include:

- Repair of the sign posts along the nature trail
- Easels for use at Community Day (the ones we had disappeared from the storage facility. Someone must be using them)
- Additional signage for Piney Hollow such as a marsh diagram.
- Inexpensive prizes for Community Day use

**C. Community Day:** Community Day was very successful this year. We had a location on a middle aisle, which undoubtedly helped, but it was also a beautiful day, so the attendance was quite good. Ms. McCarthy reported that the Recreation Commission/Community Day organizers did not provide tables as they did last year, so it was very helpful that we have 4 tables of our own and Mr. Stippick had another two tables. Also, we requested 3 contiguous spaces but only 2 were allocated. Fortunately, a 3<sup>rd</sup> space, behind ours and facing the next aisle, was available to us. We placed the display stands on that site.

We also had a water quality question wheel that was borrowed from ANJEC. The tank and the wheel were attractive to children, and we had some simple prizes (bubbles and balloons) to “award” to the kids. Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Stippick and Mr. E. Duerr staffed the booth, along with Ms. McCarthy’s nephew, Andrew Bolan. Ward Bolan also helped with set up and break down and Mr. Duerr lent his truck for the day.

**V. New Business:**

- A. Ms. McCarthy talked to a resident at Community Day who discussed the fact that he had solar panels installed on his new house and then found out there is no connection to the grid in his vicinity. He has been waiting at least two years for this to get resolved. He has tried to find out when this may be remedied. Apparently, Franklin Township has areas that are and are not open to grid connection. Ms. McCarthy tried to follow up on this by obtaining the map that shows these areas but has been unsuccessful in getting it, so far.
- B. **Email:** A discussion ensued on the need by the EC for its own email, so that people can contact us. Ms. McCarthy will contact Sara Thurston to ask about this.
- C. Ms. McCarthy advised that the Environmental Commission has its own stationery with a masthead with the Township seal on it. She will look for it on her laptop. Mr. Stippick suggested that we get cards made, using this masthead information. He needed them at Community Day. Ms. McCarthy suggested that we make them ourselves as it’s simple to do.

**VI. Mail:** There were two notices from the Pinelands Commission:

1. Letter to Paul Chupashko on 4015 Hancock Drive, Williamstown (Block 601, Lots 33, 38 & 39) dated Sept. 13, 2022, in reply to an application for approval of a Forest Stewardship Plan. The application cannot go forward because the owner had established a landscape business on part of the 10.38-acre property that was never permitted by the Commission or by Franklin Township. The owner had notified the Township that he was removing the business. The Pinelands Commission required a schedule of removal, which is to be done no later than Dec. 31, 2022.

2. Letter to Kenneth Christopher, Jr. at 80 Grandview Ave., Williamstown, (Block 5901, Lot 23) dated Sept. 19, 2022, notifying the owner of an Inconsistent Certificate of Filing, and requiring submission to the Pinelands Commission of a county or municipal approval or permit for the development.

**VII. Adjournment:** Upon a motion by Mr. Brandt, seconded by Mr. Stippick and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne McCarthy, Acting Secretary.

**The next meeting of the Environmental Commission is on Monday, October 24, 7:30 pm. It will be both a live meeting in the Municipal Bldg. conference room and also a Zoom meeting.**