

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

7 October 2021

Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called on to order at 7:02 pm by Bill Cotte and the following statement was read:

“In compliance with the ‘Open Public Meetings Act’, Chapter 231, PL 1975, Section 5, adequate notice has been given of this meeting by posting a Notice in the lobby of the Borough Hall, a public space; on the Borough’s website, Face Book page, and Twitter account and by transmitting a notice to two newspapers, THE TIMES and the ASBURY PARK PRESS, as required by law.”

Flag Salute

Role call - Present: Bill Cotte, Jennifer Elder Brady, Kirstin Jakober, Rick Jakober, Patricia Brown, Nancy Tindall, Jeff Ploshay, Wil Borkowski, Janice Buchalski, Wil Borkowski, Councilwoman Martha Johnson. A quorum was present.

Approval of agenda - Motion to approve by Jennifer Elder Brady, 2nd Jan Buchalski; Motion passed

Opening statement, Commission Chair

Minutes Review

Corrections for typos were suggested for the minutes. A motion was made by Nancy Tindall and 2nd Patricia Brown to accept the September 2, 2021 meeting minutes as amended; Bill Cotte abstained; Motion passed.

Public Participation (limited to 3 minutes per citizen) - none

Communications

- Correspondence - none

Borough Council Report - Borough Council Liaison, Councilwoman Johnson – none

Old Business –

- Borough Master Plan NRI/ERI – Update – Jennifer Elder Brady, Rick Jakober, and Nancy Tindall will work on updating the NRI. Nancy said they should set a date to meet (TBD) to work on or give assignments to members, to move forward to make assessment of what needs to be done to update the NRI (Natural Resource Inventory)/ERI (Environmental

Resource Inventory). Funding? Budget? Engage professionals? Rick discussed that most of the elements needed are in the current Master Plan. They should compare previous NRI documents with the Master Plan. Use side by side documents and see where the gaps are. There is a PDF for the Master Plan and the NRI. Jennifer will look at the Borough's NRI and fill in the gaps. The figures are in a word document. She will look at resources for things like flood plain issues. Nancy asked whether or not they want the maps so it could easily be kept up to date. The sense was that Borough Planner was not interested in redoing the NRI. This subgroup would work on new data and material updates. She questioned if they should add things that are related to climate change or other current issues that should be included. She will send out the ANJEC newsletter. Rick stated that there might be a problem with putting together the real factors and figures related to the impacts and what they might be. They should see what the original data is and update it. Then take a look at the ANJEC information to see about the related current events. Rick will look at information from Sustainable Jersey's components for the Bronze certification. Bill Cotte asked if money was needed for resources. This should be put in the budget for next year. Nancy stated that public input was good, but they may want to have Planner Andy Thomas review it. Maybe look into grants for planning work. Sustainable Jersey? Rick said that Sustainable Jersey takes a lot of information and references from ANJEC. Nancy will speak with people from ANJEC to see if they will do the review.

Rick looked at the listing of starting points from Sustainable Jersey: Geology, geography, topography, climate, air quality, hydrology, soils, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, infrastructure, contamination sites, i.e. the gas station on the corner in town; critical environmental areas, etc.

- Plastics Ban – Bill Cotte and Wil Borkowski said they will get the information about the changes in the new Plastics Law to the ABCA and put “Bag up NJ” information on the AEC website. Councilwoman Johnson stated that Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk, Laurie Roth and Borough Attorney, Greg Cannon, will include the AEC's input in any future Plastics ordinances. Nancy Tindall said there were 2 issues here. 1) Whether or not the Municipality will pass additional ordinances other than what the State will do. And 2) If relying solely on the State law, how are they going to implement it? Jennifer Elder Brady suggested emailing the State Plastics Law implementation calendar to Laurie Roth and Greg Cannon. Patricia Brown will send the timeline and other links to State guidelines to Laurie Roth. Rick Jakober will send the link to AEC and ABCA members. www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law

- Fall Festival – Coordination with Shade Tree Commission –
Tent and tables' space will be shared with the Shade Tree Commission.
Bill Cotte has the 225 reusable bags to be given out at the Harvest Festival; Patricia Brown will make a poster board for display with the New State Plastic Bans Mandate and calendar, display for the Heritage Park Pollinator Garden, and Milkweed seed packets for distribution; Janice Buchalski will have Pollinator information on poster boards. Saturday's signup is filled, Rick, Patricia, and Jennifer will cover the times. Rick and Nancy will cover Sunday.

New Business –

2022 Budget – Requesting \$1875 In addition to 2021 expenses there is:

\$500 for consulting services for revised NRI (Natural Resources Inventory)/ERI
(Environmental Resources Inventory)
\$250 for ANJEC roadshow

2021 Budget awarded: \$1125
ANJEC dues; Bee City membership; PTA reusable water bottles; Harvest Fest table space
fee; Environmental Commission Flag

Other Business –

Parks and trail maps - As per discussion during the Open Space review in Heritage Park in August this year, trail maps should be available for people to use. Jennifer suggested looking at the STRAVA site to get ideas for the maps. Nancy suggested putting a map in the kiosks so people visiting the parks could have ready access. Kirstin Jakober will look into configuring some samples by the end of this year.

Jeff Ploshay reported that someone set fire to one of the new benches in Heritage Park and melted part of it.

Jennifer reported that the Planning Board considered the application for the property on North Main Street. The homeowners will go back to the surveyor to try to remedy the problem. This is not an Environmental Commission consideration.

Janice Buchalski reported that Sgt. George Aschby Park Phase 1 will be completed the end of October. Phase 2 will go out to bid after Phase 1 is complete

Jennifer made a suggestion that the AEC consider making an ordinance to ban dirt bikes and ATV's in the parks.

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Patricia Brown & 2nd Rick Jakober to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.; The motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting On Zoom and in person at the Borough Hall, Thursday, November 4, 2021, 7:00 PM