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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2022

MEMBERS

Present – David Kostka, Brook Crossan, John Vig, Thomas Pacheco, Mary Massey, Thom Hennessy & Liaison Susan Fitzpatrick

OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson David Kostka called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM, and read the following statement:

“In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, public notice of this meeting has been provided by publication of an annual notice in the Asbury Park Press and posting of this notice on the bulletin board at Town Hall.

Notice was provided to the Asbury Park Press that in order to comply with Executive Order No. 104 from the Governor of the State of New Jersey, this meeting would be held virtually with log-in information and telephonic numbers for call-in being provided via the Township’s website.”

MINUTES

The February 2022 minutes were approved with unanimous consent without any corrections.

REVIEW OF PLANNING BOARD AND/OR ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (ZBA) APPLICATIONS

Planning Board Application **PB749** – 295 Route 537, LLC – Block 34, Lot 14 – 295 Route 537 was discussed. It was noted that a “Tree Removal and Save Tree Plan” needs to be submitted. After discussion, and by unanimous consent, Chairman Kostka was directed to send a letter to the Planning Board stating that if action was taken it should include that the “Tree Removal and Save Tree Plan” should be reviewed and approved by the Township Planner, Township Engineer, and Environmental Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Before the meeting Mr. Vig distributed draft language regarding backyard habitat, planting for butterflies, birds, and bees, and getting certified by the National Wildlife Federation. After some discussion, it was determined that we should wait until the April meeting to finalize the language. Some items to consider: the Green Team may organize a Seed Bank; a Green Team member might have milkweed seeds that are available, for monarch butterflies; perhaps we would link free seeds with the Shade Tree Commission seedling give away on Earth Day, April 23rd; and possibly mention the article *Gardening with Climate Change*. Chairman Kostka will call Melinda Martin, Chairwoman of the Shade Tree Commission, to discuss.
2. Mr. Pacheco gave a brief report on the very successful tour of Mazza Recycling that he had set up. Everyone was excited by the expanded recycling capabilities at Mazza that include: all hard #1, #2, and #5 plastics; all pizza boxes, soiled or not; and aluminum foil and containers. Items that came out in discussion:
 - a. Chairman Kostka had made a OPRA request to get a copy of the contract with Sakoutis, in order to see whether the contract specifies limits on what recyclables are to be collected. Liasion Fitzpatrick will try to expedite release.
 - b. Ms. Massey pointed out that Section 195 of the Colts Neck Code addresses recycling. If we can expand the items to be recycled, this Section will have to be amended, as in 195-1 and 195-2 the limited items to be recycled are clearly described.
 - c. Mazza would be very happy to give another tour to Township Committee members, DPW staff, or other interested parties.
 - d. Sakoutis sold its recycling division to Republic.
 - e. Chairman Kostka will send out email updates, and may even attempt a special meeting, if necessary, to keep this topic moving expeditiously.
3. Mr. Crossan reported that he is assembling updated and expanded listing of environmental links for the Environmental Commissions webpage.
4. Chairman Kostka requested that as many members as possible sign up and attend the Sustainable Jersey Zoom call regarding how to prepare your businesses and community

for the Statewide ban on certain single-use plastics on May 4, 2022. The registration link is below.

Wednesday March 23, 2022, 7:00pm-8:00pm

[Register](#)

5. There was a brief discussion regarding the NRI/ERI revisions. The following points were made:
 - a. The latest Table of Contents had been attached to the Agenda.
 - b. The necessary Township Committee resolution to complete our application for a \$10,000 grant to help complete the NRI is scheduled for the 9 March Committee meeting. Chairman Kostka will submit to Sustainable Jersey on Thursday, 10 March.
 - c. Ms. Massey has submitted a draft Land Use chapter that Chairman Kostka was very impressed with. He will distribute it to all members.
 - d. Mr. Crossan will submit a draft Air Quality chapter next week.
 - e. We will have more detailed conversations on other chapters once we hear whether or not we received the \$10,000 grant for technical assistance.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Chairman Kostka asked everyone to read the article *Gardening with Climate Change*. It is available on-line at <https://www.co.monmouth.nj.us/documents/132/GH-Winter-2021-22-ADA.pdf> beginning on page 6. We can then discuss at the April meeting how and where to advertise its availability to Township residents.
7. We discussed the fact that there is still an opening on the Environmental Commission. One possibility discussed was Ashley Reese, who is on the Monmouth County Environmental Council, with Chairman Kostka and Mr. Vig.
8. The Open Space Stewardship Grant available from ANJEC was briefly discussed. It is a competitive grant of up to \$1,500. The deadline for submission is 2 May 2022. Chairman Kostka asked Mr. Crossan to research the requirements and report back at the April meeting.
9. Chairman Kostka asked as many members as possible to attend a Zoom call to hear more about how to make Colts Neck more supportive of solar power. A registration link is below.

Best Practices in Planning and Zoning for Solar Webinar

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

1:00pm - 2:00pm.

REGISTER

10. The next meeting of the EC will be on Monday 4 April 2022 at 7pm via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brook Crossan