

**Readington Township
Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2021**

OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hendrickson at 7:04 p.m. stating that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

Members in Attendance

Neil Hendrickson, Chair
Robert Becker
Jerry Cook
Steve Foster
Jonathan Heller
Todd Terricone
Mario Orlandi

Members Absent

Jeff Charney
Susan Masinda

Minutes

Mr. Heller moved, and Mr. Foster seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for November 17, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Due to a procedural error during the December 1, 2020 meeting where the minutes were presented for approval, it necessitated the presentation of the November 17, 2020 minutes for approval again.

Mr. Heller moved, and Mr. Foster seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for December 1, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

LOI/Freshwater Wetlands

1. PSE&G - Application for Extension of Freshwater Wetlands GP 1 -

The Environmental Commission will request the name of the PSE&G contact for all work being done in the Township.

2. NJDEP Permit - Readington Commons -

It was noted that while there is no action that can be taken at this point in time with regard to this project, the commission members agreed that a "trust but verify" approach can be taken as this project proceeds.

AOC (Areas of Concern)

None

Correspondence

None

New Business

None

Other Business

Bellemead Development NJPDES Permit No. NJ0102563 - Final Surface Water Renewal Permit Action

Notification was provided that this permit renewal request was denied.

Leaf Composting

After noticing illegal dumping of leaves, this item was brought up for discussion. It was suggested that residents be educated on how to keep leaves on their properties and shown how to compost them. An example was provided of a NJ municipality would pick up leaves, compost them and then sell the product to the residents. It was reported that the product would always sell out. If the township offered a resource for handling leaves, it could prevent illegal dumping. The members agreed that additional study of the problem and potential solutions is needed.

Recycling

Commission members discussed the current recycling efforts within the Township as well as improvements that can be made, including being able to recycle types 3-7 in addition to types 1-2. It was mentioned that there are some alternatives that may encompass having a way for residents to drop off the recyclables in a specific location and then have them collected by a company that handles all types of recyclables as well as working with Hunterdon County.

Subcommittee Updates

Tree Subcommittee

Nothing to report other than getting reports of Ash trees being chopped down.

Wildlife Advisory Subcommittee

Deer Management

A recommendation was sent to Mr. Mueller to schedule a meeting to discuss the deer management program for 2021/2022 in the near future to address issues identified in the current program. It was reported that some clubs are not reporting their deer harvests. Mr. Heller volunteered to follow up on this.

Grants Update

Mr. Becker thanked the administration for taking over the reporting of the status of grants however he requested that the project manager be added to the status spreadsheet.

Mr. Becker remarked on the opportunity of an energy initiative grant – FREE Technical Assistance for Energy Initiatives. Per the Grants Management procedure, a letter will be submitted to the Township Committee to request permission to apply for this grant.

Plastics Ban Ordinance

The chairman corresponded with ANJEC and was told that starting in January, they will be having webinars to help municipalities communicate the bans to the business owners and residents. It was mentioned that it may be possible to have a mailing to the Township's business put together.

TREX Program

It was reported that the bins that are in place that allow residents to drop off their plastic bags are filled every day.

Site Plan Review and Comment

1. Whitehouse Auto

Appl# ZB20-003 -Block 18 Lots 12 – 378 Route 22 West
Preliminary & Final Site Plan with "D" Variance - Canopy & Sign
No Comments

2. Solberg Aviation Company

Appl# PB18-014- Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan- Paving and rehabilitation of runway and associated improvements
Block 39, Lot 24, Block 48, Lot 23, Block 55, Lot 33, Block 56, Lots 1, 3, 6, 8 & 8.02 and Block 67, Lot 2
No Comments

3. Branchburg Route 22 LLC (Verano) Appl#

PB19-011- B 14 Lot 49, 3576 Route 22
Preliminary & Final Major Site Plan- Cannabis Grow Facility
This is all interior work; no comments

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

It was the consensus of the committee members to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Radziewicz
Secretary to the Environmental Commission