

Pittsgrove Township Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes (Via Zoom Teleconference)
August 28, 2023

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Ron Mc Bride, at 7:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was given. The Open Public Meeting proclamation was read. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.
2. In attendance: Ron Mc Bride, Norm Lenchitz, Trish Jankauskas, Tara Waterhouse, Fran Spinelli, Fiore Copare and Eileen O'Hara.
3. Approval of the Minutes from the July 24, 2023, Regular Meeting: ***motion to approve by Norm, 2nd by Ron, all in favor.***
4. Unfinished Business:
 - a. Farmland Preservation Update – Eileen

Sparks – the appraisals are complete, and an offer was made. If she accepts then a survey will be done.

E. Mihalecz – estate issues have been resolved and a request to consolidate lots received. The lots have different owners so that issue will be resolved when the easement deed is written, and the lots combined in that document.

Stephens – Ag Advisory Committee is keeping the application open in the hope that Doc Stephens concerns can be resolved. There is still confusion about allowable uses on preserved farmland.
 - b. Green Acres/Open Space Update – Norm said the Green Acres Program is trying to preserve land on the east side of Elmer Lake which is privately owned by a Pittsgrove resident. This is an important recharge area which the state is interested in protecting.
 - c. Report on Area Meetings, Training, Events

Norm attended the forestry meeting. The topic was formation of bird habitat. Holly Farm in Millville has cleared a lot of their trees and turned that space into an open meadow, which is the type of environment in which birds thrive. The farm is located off Route 49 and although you can't drive into it the area is open for walking. Norm said there are tons of birds to see.
 - d. Newspaper Articles - none
 - e. Elmer Lake Fishing Line Container – Ron cleaned on 8/26/23, mainly trash and very little line.
 - f. Pittsgrove Day: looking for ideas for next year's event.
 - Native Species Exhibit
 - South Jersey Nature Club
 - South Jersey Gas
 - 8 Exhibit Booth Spaces and Tents.
 - Green Pittsgrove EC Logo Tote Bags – 121 left for 2024, will order more.
 - 1 Rain Barrel and 3 composters for drawing
 - DEP I Education Literature

- Clean Communities Booth
 - Schalick High Interact Club
 - Potential Candidates for 2024 Resolution of Recognition
 - Ideas, plans or dreams for Pittsgrove Day 2024 – Fran said that it might be a 2-day event. Anyone who has thoughts about that should attend the Rec meeting. Norm suggested Barb's Road cleanup crew should work near us.
- g. Quarterly road cleanup – 8/12/23. Ron and Norm picked up 12 lbs. of trash and 10 lbs. of recyclables. Ron hopes more people will join them next time.
- h. Radon Awareness Program (RAP) – 1 kit given out this month. Members discussed the quarterly report. One resident on Alvine tested extremely high. Eileen emailed her to retest but got no response, she'll email her again tomorrow.
- i. Pittsgrove Signage Update
- No progress on sign placement. Ron and Norm are willing to mark the intended locations and get Harry's input. Eileen will contact Harry tomorrow about the plan.
- j. Tire Amnesty – tabled, no market for processing now.
- k. PTEC Zoom meetings will continue moving forward.
- l. Brush Clearing at Green Branch Park – Ron suggested everyone go for a walk and enjoy the trail.
- m. Intercoastal Waterway Cleanup – Norm suggested Garden Road area east of Porchtown, there's trash and bulk items there. Norm noted that there is a sign that a family adopted this road. Eileen will contact Barb for that name; they may be interested in joining us on this project. The tentative date is 11/11/23, date to be confirmed at next month's meeting.
- n. SJLWT – may be opportunities to collaborate with them again in the Spring.
- o. Shred Event – Money is available.
- Ron contacted ProShred. The only Saturday open is 11/4/23 if a driver is available. The company will confirm with Ron this week whether they can do it. Eileen asked to be notified ASAP. This event will require a township committee resolution and we will need time to process payment if they want the check on the event day.

5. New Business:

Warehouse Distribution Facility:

Fran said the next meeting will be 9/5/23 via Zoom with a possibility of another meeting on 9/7/23 if necessary. Eileen will forward the link and agenda to everyone when received.

Norm thought the Planning Board needs to scrutinize this project more closely and have more input from them during these meetings. There are errors and inconsistencies in the application and the meetings are monopolized by the lawyers.

6. Planning Board Update: see above.

7. Correspondence – Shade Tree Bulletins received and plans for the new septic system at the Grove.

8. Member Roundtable: Ron updated the group on his granddaughter's surgery and his daughter's diagnosis. Everyone wished them well.
9. Public Comments: None
10. Budget: is in good shape.
11. Adjournment: 8:31 p.m. ***Motion to adjourn by Norm, 2nd by Trish, all in favor.***

NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 25, 2023