

Pittsgrove Township Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes (Via Zoom Teleconference)
October 23, 2023

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Ron Mc Bride, at 7:34 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, Nick Mesiano, Bernie Bernardini, Cameron Shapiro, and Eileen O'Hara.
3. Approval of the Minutes from the August 28, 2023, Regular Meeting: ***motion to approve by Norm, 2nd by Ron, all in favor.***
4. Ron introduced Cameron Shapiro who is serving her 2nd term as the Watershed Ambassador.

Cameron shared her interests and why she wanted to continue in this role. She is sponsoring a cleanup event on 11/11/23 along the Maurice River. It will take place from 10:00-12:00 a.m. She will supply the equipment needed and have the trash picked up; she'll also send us a flyer with all the specifics. Norm suggested we do this as our Waterway Cleanup too and the members agreed.

She may also do a rain garden in Parvin Park next spring, she's waiting for a response from the park superintendent. SJLWT is coordinating that event and she'll keep us informed of its status.

5. Unfinished Business:

a. Farmland Preservation Update – Eileen

Sparks – contract signed by all parties, township resolution approved, settlement should occur in the next few months.

E. Mihalecz – deed has been updated to include all parties, lots have been consolidated, should close in the next few months.

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. Nick will talk to Doc Stephens; Eileen will email Katie about meeting with Doc to discuss his opposition.

Lisar – state easement, property is in two counties, offer extended and accepted, 45.62 acres on Morton.

Appel – state easement, property is in two municipalities, 19.17 acres in Pittsgrove. Appraisals are next.

JWP Properties – nothing new to report.

Ron mentioned the state has now preserved 250K acres. Norm said it's remarkable considering the size of NJ.

- b. Green Acres/Open Space Update – None
- c. Report on Area Meetings, Training, Events

Norm attended an Energy Seminar this morning held by the Sweeney Center at Rowan. He said it was a very interesting discussion. S. Jersey is becoming the nexus for three top energy producers: nuclear (supplies 40% of the state), wind and hydrogen which Mach 2 is trying to get up and running here. He said it was quite informative and should be available for viewing on Rowan's YouTube channel.

d. Newspaper Articles - none

e. Elmer Lake Fishing Line Container – Ron cleaned on 10/22/23, mainly trash and very little line.

f. Pittsgrove Day: Ron said the Recreation Committee is thinking of a 2-day event next year. He wants to meet with them to discuss that idea and its impact on volunteers.

- 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 – tabled for now.

h. Radon Awareness Program (RAP) – 1 kit given since August.

i. Pittsgrove Signage Update

Ron hasn't had the time to mark out the locations. Some signs could be used now in locations where they hung previously. Must get together with Harry and finalize their placements.

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 see the Fall color.

m. Intercoastal Waterway Cleanup – 11/11/23 will now be combined with the Maurice River cleanup on the same date.

n. SJLWT – will see what Camerson is doing with the Parvin rain garden in the spring.

o. Shred Event – 11/4/23 8:00-12:00 at the municipal building.

Eileen said the contract has been signed, resolution complete and check will be available for the driver the day of the event. Still need the certificate of insurance and the Hold Harmless Agreement.

6. New Business:

Warehouse Distribution Facility, Ron will keep this on the agenda to follow the situation.

Cameron Shapiro, NJ Watershed Ambassador/ Maurice River Cleanup

6. Planning Board Update: 10/24/23 meeting is cancelled per Eileen.

7. Correspondence – none

8. Member Roundtable:

Norm sent a link for a NYT's article which shows the water table is dropping here. The warehouse is an issue because it will cover more area than the Planning Board allows creating a potential run-off problem instead of infiltration and replenishment of the aquifer. Nick noted that there are no environment commission members on the Planning Board.

Ron has a new banner for the shredding event.

Eileen asked if Paul Jacobs is being replaced, no decision on that yet.

9. Public Comments: None

10. Budget: Eileen stated money for the shredding event is coming from the PTEC budget.. Ron requested a copy of the budget and Eileen will email that once it's received.

11. Adjournment: 8:54 p.m. ***Motion to adjourn by Norm, 2nd by Trish, all in favor.***

NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 22, 2024 (RE-ORGANIZATION)