

Pittsgrove Township Environmental Commission
Reorganization Meeting Minutes (Via Zoom Teleconference)
January 22, 2024

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Ron Mc Bride, at 7:33 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, Trish Jankauskas, Fran Spinelli, Norm Lenchitz, Tara Waterhouse, and Eileen O'Hara.
3. 2024 Reorganization of the Pittsgrove Environmental Commission (N.J.S.A. 40-56. A-1)
 - a. Chairperson – Norm nominates Ron, no other nominations. **Motion to approve by Norm, 2nd by Trish, all in favor.**
 - b. Vice-Chair – Trish nominates Norm, no other nominations. **Motion to approve by Trish, 2nd by Ron, all in favor.**
 - c. Secretary – Eileen will continue this year.
 - d. Review Commission Members – 2024 membership appointed by TC resolution at their 1/2/24 reorganization meeting. There is still 1 alternate spot open.
 - e. Liaison Members – Fran and Dr. Copare continue in that capacity.
 - f. Establishment of the 2024 meeting calendar, reviewed and approved by all.
 - g. Newspaper Notification – Eileen will have the meeting calendar published and forwarded to the township clerk.
 - h. 2023 PTEC Annual Report – members reviewed and approved. Eileen will have it put on the TC agenda for review.
4. Approval of the minutes of the November 27, 2023, regular meeting: **Motion to approve by Trish, 2nd by Norm, all in favor.**
5. Unfinished Business:

- a. Farmland Preservation Update – Eileen

Mihalecz – should close in the next few months.

Stephens – Ag committee met last week and decided to keep his application open in hopes that he will decide to preserve his farm.

JWP Properties – family issues resolved. Eileen contacted them and is awaiting their decision on whether they'll proceed or not.

Lisar and Sparks: both at the survey stage.

Eileen said the state wants to develop a formula-based model to determine the per acre price offered for preservation. Presently using an appraisal system and the state feels it's not giving the best value possible. There is no policy yet or formula in place. An outside party will be hired to develop the formula. This will not be in effect for at least 18 months.

The Ag Committee is also trying to set up a farm tour with the Economic Development Committee to showcase local growers and their operations. Norm is reaching out to his farm contacts for feedback and interest in this event. It will be on the March Ag Agenda for further discussion.

- b. Green Acres/Open Space Update – None

c. Report on Area Meetings, Training, Events

ANJEC is having webinars on storm water per Ron, but they're geared more towards city issues.

Eileen will renew the ANJEC membership this week now that the TC appointments are confirmed.

d. Newspaper Articles – Norm read an article about Great Britain getting a large part of their energy from wind. He noted the Netherlands has been using wind power for years to pump water out so they can farm. Brigantine would be a great location for wind power because it has sustainable winds at the correct speed for the turbines.

e. Elmer Lake Fishing Line Container – Ron checked on 1/21/24, no trash or line in container.

f. Pittsgrove Day: tabled for now.

- Native Species Exhibit
- South Jersey Nature Club
- South Jersey Gas
- Historical photo exhibit
- 8 Exhibit Booth Spaces and Tents.
- Green Pittsgrove EC Logo Tote Bags – quotes received.
- 1 Rain Barrel and 3 composters for drawing
- DEP I Education Literature
- Clean Communities Booth
- Schalick High Interact Club
- Is anyone taking over for Jim Andrus/Blue Bird Box Exhibit?
- Ideas, plans or dreams for Pittsgrove Day 2024
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g. Quarterly road cleanup – scheduled for 2/24/24, 8:00 a.m., meet at the Municipal Bldg.

h. Radon Awareness Program (RAP) – Eileen has had no activity. Ron will research sending notices to realtors about the availability of the free testing kits if required for closing.

i. Pittsgrove Signage Update – tabled until February.

j. Tire Amnesty – tabled, no market or funding for processing now.

k. PTEC Zoom meetings will continue moving forward.

l. Brush Clearing at Green Branch Park – enjoy a winter walk.

m. Intercoastal Waterway Cleanup – Norm noted that we will need more volunteers from the Watershed Ambassador for future projects. Ron said the last project was done through AmeriCorp and they need to do a better job of advertising.

n. Shred Event – money in the budget for this year's event.

5. New Business:

Warehouse Distribution Facility – nothing new to report.

Deer Pen Park flower buffer mowed down. Members discussed the issue. It happened late in the season and were perennials per Eileen. The Commission will see what regrows in the spring and decide if further action is required.

Ron suggested putting a smaller version of the PTEC banner in the municipal building to bring attention to the commission and its work. Trish said she could put it on the bulletin board once that end of the building is renovated.

6. Planning Board Update: none

7. Correspondence – none

8. Member Roundtable:

Eileen will submit the ANJEC membership renewal this week. Mr. Sheff was not reappointed to the commission.

9. Public Comments: None

10. Budget 2024: Ron submitted to finance.

11. Adjournment: 8:39 p.m. ***Motion to adjourn by Trish, 2nd by Ron, all in favor.***

NEXT MEETING IS FEBRUARY 26, 2024