

Pittsgrove Township Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes (Via Zoom Teleconference)
February 26, 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, Nick Mesiano, Fiore Copare and Eileen O'Hara.
3. Approval of the minutes of the January 22, 2024, reorganization meeting: ***Motion to approve by Trish, 2nd by Norm, all in favor.***
4. Unfinished Business:
 - a. Farmland Preservation Update – Eileen

Nothing new to report. Next Ag meeting is 3/20/24 and will get updates then. Commission discussed Dr. Stephens application and how long funding is held. There is still a holdup in the final legal review process due to staff shortages and the training of new employees.
 - b. Green Acres/Open Space Update – Ron

\$27 million awarded in 2023 for Urban Parks, Stewardship, and money for disabled access to public spaces (Jake's Law).
 - c. Report on Area Meetings, Training, Events

Norm attended a Rowan University Offshore Wind discussion via Zoom. He said there are 3 projects underway for wind development in NJ. They should be operational by 2031 with 10K permanent jobs. Norm said NJ has great staging areas for building and offshore access and the wind conditions in Brigantine are perfect for these projects. Norm said it was very interesting and thinks it could be found on the Sweeney Center YouTube channel or Rowan TV.

Ron said ANJEC announced that NJDEP has grants for electric school buses. There are 21,700 registered school buses in NJ. 98% currently run on fossil fuels.
 - d. Newspaper Articles – Ron: NJ Spotlight News from 1/26/24: US Representative Mikie Sherrill (D-11th) is sponsoring legislation to require Federal buildings in NJ use native plants in their landscapes.
 - e. Elmer Lake Fishing Line Container – Ron checked on 2/25/24, 3 wads of line and some trash in container..
 - f. Pittsgrove Day:
 - Native Species Exhibit
 - South Jersey Nature Club
 - South Jersey Gas
 - Historical photo exhibit

- 8 Exhibit Booth Spaces and Tents – Eileen reserved for Saturday only.
 - Green Pittsgrove EC Logo Tote Bags – quotes received.
 - 1 Rain Barrel (donation) and 3 composters for drawing – Eileen will call SCIA
 - DEP Education Literature
 - SJ Land and Water Trust
 - Clean Communities Booth
 - Schalick High Interact Club
 - Is anyone taking over for Jim Andrus/Blue Bird Box Exhibit?
 - Tara suggested calling local nurseries for native plant lists and samples, she'll look into that, and Ron will Contact Triple Oaks Nursery.
- g. Quarterly road cleanup – rained out, rescheduled for 3/2/24 at 8:00 a.m.
- h. Radon Awareness Program (RAP) – Eileen has had no activity. The kits will be available on Pittsgrove Day.
- i. Pittsgrove Signage Update – Eileen will contact Harry.
- 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 – weather good for walking this week.
- m. Intercoastal Waterway Cleanup – Members discussed location and decided the brook behind Anderson's would be good. Norm contacted the county about all the trash between Rt. 55 and Gershal Road.
- n. Shred Event – money in the budget for this year's event.
5. New Business:
- Warehouse Distribution Facility – nothing new to report.
- Trish will hang a PTEC banner in the Municipal Building when the renovation is done. Ron will look into getting it made.
6. Planning Board Update: meeting scheduled for tomorrow, 2/27/24 is still on.
7. Correspondence – none
8. Member Roundtable:
- Nick has archive information on Charles Landis, he'll send information to the members as he goes through it.
9. Public Comments: None
10. Budget 2024: budget is good. Ron will get quotes to purchase more totes..
11. Adjournment: 8:30 p.m. ***Motion to adjourn by Trish, 2nd by Ron, all in favor.***

NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 25, 2024