

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
November 30, 2023 - 7:30 PM

Dana Flynn	Chairperson	X
Eric Duch	Co-Chairperson	X
Lisa Shimamoto	Member	X
Peter Dlugos	Member	X
James Myers	Member	
Christine Aboulhosn	Member	
	Member	
	Alternate 1	
	Alternate 2	
Andrew McElroy	Planning Board Liaison	X
Harvey Roseff	Council Liaison	X
Fran Frederick	Secretary	X

Call meeting to order, meeting opened at 7:34pm.

Open Public Meeting Statement- Adequate notice of this Zoom meeting has been published specifying the time and access information in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting has also been electronically sent to the newspapers and uploaded to Byram’s website, not less than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. In addition, a copy of this notice is on file in the office of the Environmental Commission Secretary.

Public Participation – N/A

Review of Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2023 – Motion to accept made by Peter Dlugos and seconded by Lisa Shimamoto.

Resolutions

<https://anjec.org/action-alerts/>

1. Resolution Opposing the Expansion of the NJ Turnpike
 - a. The committee approves and will submit it to the town council for their support.
2. Resolution Supporting Continuation of Corporate Business Tax (CBT) at 2023 Rate To Fund Critical Open Space, Farmland, Historic Preservation and Hazardous Site Cleanup Funding.
 - a. The committee approves and will submit it to the town council for their support.

Planning Board Applications

- [SP7-2023-10.17.2023 Panther Lake](#)—Panther Lake; being heard 12/21; for improvements to the pool area.
 - -How will stormwater runoff be handled? Will it drain into the neighboring pond?
 - -The EC recommends adding a rain garden for filtration wherever runoff will be directed.

- [Z23-2023-11.02.2023 Mia Costic and Stuart Marker](#)—Costic, likely being heard 12/07, for a deck.
 - -EC recommends that the vegetation on the steep slope be maintained.
 - -Maintain the required 10-foot wide vegetative buffer at the waterfront.
- [Z24-2023-11.03.2023 Ruth Piniero](#)—Piniero; being heard 12/07; for a deck expansion.
 - -EC recommends that the vegetation on the steep slope be maintained.

Reference Maps:

Highlands - https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/gis/interactive_map/#/-74.63346/40.87985/3

NJDEP GeoWeb -

<https://njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=02251e521d97454aabdf8cf168e44d>

Committee Reports

- MRMC – Last meeting, October 17; Next meeting December 12
- Recreation – Last meeting, November 20; Next meeting December 18
 - Peter Dlugos attended and feels EC and Recreation can partner and support one another for future events.
- Open Space – Last meeting, October 9 (canceled); Next meeting December 11
- Council – Last meeting, November 21; Next meeting December 5

New Business

- Winter hike/educational event(s)
 - The committee discussed different trails, dates, and time. No decision was made. Peter will research more and email committee members with recommendations.
- EC water bottles
 - Peter will get a quote from 4-Imprint on an 18oz. Stainless Steel bottle.
 - The committee will work on a logo and add as a sticker at a later date.
- 2024 Goals
 - Move 2023 to 2024.

Old Business

- Mission Statement
 - Lisa had some ideas for inclusion in the current mission statement, as well as some items that are no longer pertinent.
 - Peter suggested the committee get together one Saturday or Sunday to discuss what changes should be implemented.
- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site - No updates.

Training

- We have 4 CEU's to date. Four more are needed before the end of December.
 - Fran shared with the committee a class Mike Orgera took 11/30.
 - Dana will call the Forestry Office to get a certificate for the class Christine took in June.
 - Dana put together a list of upcoming webinars that will assist in completing our 8 CEU requirement for 2023.

Membership

- Alternate I and II positions are currently vacant.

Budget - Balance is \$883.42

- Additional 2023 EC Purchases:
 - Water bottles, others.
 - Fran to ask Ashleigh for the deadline and process for spending this money.

Other

Lisa discussed the Conservation Easement is back on track. Thanks to Andrew sharing a report that was completed 10 years ago that would assist with a current report. Lisa and Fran worked on excel files and found a spreadsheet from 2014.

This report will need to be updated by working with Caitlyn to determine any new easements and updating the 2014 spreadsheet.

Next Meeting to be held December 28, in-person.

Motion to Adjourn – was made by Dana at 9:25PM and, seconded by Eric.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Dana to submit resolutions opposing the NJ Turnpike Expansion and for continuing the Corporate Business Tax at 2023 Rates to fund Open Space, Farmland, Historical Preservation and Hazardous Site Clean-up to the Town Council for their support.
2. Peter Dlugos will get a quote on the water bottles from 4-Imprint.
3. Peter Dlugos will send recommendations to the committee on trails, date, and time for the winter hike.
4. The committee will get together one Saturday or Sunday to discuss what changes should be implemented.
5. Dana will call the Forestry Office to get a certificate for the class Christine took in June.
6. Dana will put together a list of upcoming webinars & email the committee to assist in completing our 8 CEU requirement.
7. Fran to ask Ashleigh about the deadline and process for spending the remaining EC money.
- 8.