

## Environmental Commission Board Meeting – Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 2022

Call to Order by Chair

Pledge of Legion and Moment of Silence

Ron Cucchiaro the Environmental Commission (EC) lawyer read the requirements for an open public meeting where the meeting was posted in two newspapers and posted at township bulletin board. Ron also went over the rules of holding an open public meeting and that this meeting was in accordance of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Attendance: Ron Cucchiaro and John Miller (township lawyers), Marinna Seemuller (Chair), Bhupindar Singh, Gina Cohl, Sandra Carleton, Mandy Skalski, Ramesh Venkatakrishnan (Planning Board Rep), Karen Cohen (Council woman), and Toni Sapio (Professional, Engineer).

No Minutes from previous meeting as this is the first EC meeting. No open meeting notices to adopt either as this is the first EC meeting.

Toni Sapio was sworn in as the Environmental Commission's professional.

Ron gave an overview on the right of all municipalities to have an environmental commission board and that Mount Laurel adopted a new ordinance for the establishment of an environmental commission board in 2021 which complies with state regulation.

Ron also went over went is excepted of the new EC board from an advisory board on environmental issues and will be asked to review planning and zoning applications from an environmental impact aspect and make recommendations. The establishment of the EC board is to conduct an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) which the township has already contracted this assessment. Planning and Zoning applications will be reviewed against their impact to the ERI. The ERI will become part of the township's Master Plan. The EC board will also advise the township on various environmental issues impacting our township. At the end of each fiscal year, a summary report will be issued based on our recommendations throughout the year.

Ron will work with Marinna to outline the Bylaws for the Environmental Commission to be presented at next meeting.

Mount Laurel Township will join ANJEC. ANJEC has a good handbook for environmental commission boards.

Members of the EC should send Marinna a list of other goals and objectives the board would like to discuss for the next meeting.

Councilwoman, Karen Cohen, will be attending other township EC meetings to get a sense of how other towns conduct their meetings. She encouraged the other members to do the same as most of them are conducted by zoom.

Toni Sapio asked about the list of new applications for review before the professional meeting next Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup>. Bill Giegerich (township rep) and John Miller (lawyer) recommended she review these and send in comments but there was no time for the EC members to review in an open meeting forum prior to next Tuesday.

Meeting called for adjournment; motioned by Gina Cohl and seconded by Mandy Skalski; all in favor.

Next Meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm