

Environmental Commission Board Meeting – March 8th 2022

Call to Order by Chair

Pledge of Legion and Moment of Silence

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

Minutes from the Feb 8th 2022 meeting will be tabled until the April Meeting. They will be distributed to board members ahead of the next meeting.

Public Reading of Notice of meeting was provided by Ron Cucchiaro.

Pledge of Alliance was said

One minute of Silence

Gina Cohl volunteered to be board secretary. Gina Cohl was unanimously elected as Board Secretary.

Ron is still reviewing other EC by laws and will pull together what works for Mount Laurel Township. Also reviewing ANJEC model by laws.

Sammy's Car Wash Application site plan reviewed. Toni prepared a summary and went over it with the board. Historical Agriculture for non-residential test is recommended. Site had a former in ground pool – soil investigation proposed – board agrees must be investigated. Above ground storage tank in basement – proper removal and documentation will be needed. Underground storage tank is a possibility – recommend conducting geostructural investigation using ground penetration radar. Hazardous Materials will need to be investigated and disposed of properly with documentation. Application mentioned Dry Cleaner across the street and would investigate potential hazards – ask what they are proposing. Ground water flow analysis – any old residential wells on property? This will require investigation. Lead based paint and mold from existing building will need to be disposed of properly and documented. Seasonal high water – clarification to what was reported; can site provide re-charge to ground? (Clay-loam soil) Impervious surface – site 1 at 61% and site 2 at 69% below 80% maximum allowance. Fill material – where is this coming from? Will it be tested prior to entering property? Noise Pollution from dryers – study conducted at Maple Shade location at 60 decibels for one machine not all running simultaneously. On average how many driers will run at the same time. What is the proposed operation hours? Do they comply with current noise ordinances? Comments from board members: Ramesh Venkatakrishnan significant issue swimming pool. Did it breach the clay layer? What was used to fill pool? Gina Cohl concerned about the noise if multiple driers are in use. What is planned for noise barrier to mixed use area behind site? Gina Cohl, Sandra Carleton and Karen Cohen all requested the use of native plantings. A list will be put together for consideration. This is just a recommendation as no ordinance requires this aspect. Commercial properties are required to use fire retardant plants according to new township ordinance.

Open Discussions

Ila Vassallo from Evesham Green Team and Environmental Commission discussed the annual NJ American Waster Grant of \$10,000 with a March 31st deadline. Mount Laurel Township and Evesham

both have partial coverage from NJ American Water. She recommends that the two townships propose to submit a shared water shed project for next year's grant application. Board agreed that a shared project would be beneficial. Project ideas will be discussed in January 2023.

Storm Water – Flooding at Union Mill was discussed. Road improvements are planned as part of the development installation on Union Mill. Gina Cohl brought up that the improvements are based on the community(ies) on Union Mill but was the new development on Marne Hwy & Hartford Rd which is at the headway of Parker's creek which flows toward Union Mill considered? Marne Hwy site was 100% pervious ground water filtration.

Wildlife Habitat – What is the timeline for the NRI (Natural Resource Inventory)? Toni indicated that the inventory has been conducted and the draft report is under review. Various members commented on conversion of open space back to wildlife habitat. This discussion will be tabled until the NRI is completed.

Tree City USA – Gina Cohl requested that Mount Laurel become a member. Becoming Tree City USA certified allows for the township to apply for grants with Arbor Day Foundation. Members wanted to know what was involved in becoming a member. Gina will take the lead and give an overview of what is required to be a member at the next meeting in April.

Meeting called for adjournment; all in favor.

Next Meeting April 12th at 7pm