

TUCKERTON BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, December 10th, 2020 @7pm at Tuckerton Borough Hall (420 E Main Street)

Call Meeting to Order

Nedean Maddox called the Tuckerton Environmental Commission meeting to order on Thursday, December 10th, 2020 at 7:01pm at Borough Hall.

Open Public Meeting Act Statement

“Provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act have been complied with as notice was published in the Tuckerton Beacon and the Asbury Park Press stating the time, date and place of this meeting.”

Roll Call

Nedean Maddox (Chairperson)	P	Cynthia Coritz	P
Anthony Scaglione	P	Robert Rue	A
Pat Everson	P	Jerry Schultz	A
Doris Mathisen	A	Suzanne Taylor	P
Carolyn Keen (Alt #1)	P	Samantha Hollberg (Secretary)	P

Flag Salute

Mrs. Maddox led the salute of the flag.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the November 2020 meeting of the Tuckerton Environmental Commission were circulated. Mrs. Keen made a motion to approve the minutes with changes, seconded by Mrs. Everson. The motion was passed by Mrs. Maddox, Ms. Coritz, Mr. Scaglione, and Mrs. Everson. Mr. Rue, Mr. Schultz, and Mrs. Mathisen were absent.

Recording of Hours

The Tuckerton Environmental Commission recognizes their member’s donation of time and knowledge for studies and research along with attendance of the monthly meetings and available workshops / seminars for the month of November.

Nedean Maddox (Chairperson)	20	Cynthia Coritz	-
Anthony Scaglione	6	Robert Rue	-

Pat Everson	3.5	Jerry Schultz	-
Doris Mathisen	-	Suzanne Taylor	3
Carolyn Keen (Allt #1)	2		

Old Business

Save Barnegat Bay:

Mrs. Maddox stated she tried to get a hold of them, but no one has called back. She reiterated that we were trying to find out what they were doing down at South Green Street Park. Mrs. Hollberg confirmed that this was the reclaiming project the Commission discussed last meeting. Mrs. Maddox suggested that due to the Holidays and COVID they might be working on a weird schedule.

Storm Drain Basin:

Mrs. Maddox stated that she sent out something that she found from Sustainable Jersey, they are trying to put this cover on storm drains that prevents debris and other things from falling into the storm drain. She stated that this is something they should investigate because they are going to grant for it, and she believes it would really benefit Tuckerton Beach because after it floods there is always debris going down the drain. She thinks that if we did get a grant for this cover they will want to know if it actually works and will probably have to record what type of debris it catches.

Mrs. Maddox continued that the other Storm Drain Basin that the Commission was talking about was the one behind the Borough Complex and she believes we should put this off until spring because it is too cold right now. Mrs. Keen stated that she thought maybe they would put a butterfly garden back there.

Mrs. Maddox stated that in the spring there will be a lot of projects to do and she thinks they should start thinking ahead for some of them. She continued that hopefully they can do a clean-up in the spring as well because when she goes out to walk the dog she notices a lot of trash on the ground that she tries to pick up but within 500 feet her garbage bag is full.

Mrs. Everson brought up that she thinks behind the Grapevine is pretty bad as well. Mrs. Maddox stated that she has talked to Sal, the owner, about this but nothing has really come of it.

Code Enforcement Speaker

Mrs. Maddox stated that she spoke to Mr. McAndrew, and he said he was planning on doing a presentation on Bulkheads and she did not know if that is something the Commission wanted to be involved in. Mrs. Everson asked if that was the only thing he was going to speak on and Mrs. Maddox confirmed that was the only thing he was asked to speak on. Mr. Scaglione stated

that it would be nice to know what the rules are on bulkheads. Mrs. Maddox also stated that she wanted to talk to him about different soils falling into the lagoons due to bulkheads but Mr. McAndrew told her she would have to go to Land Use for that. She continued that Mr. McAndrew cannot enforce a rule that is not there, which is where Land Use would come in. Mrs. Keen asked if it would be possible to have him come present to the Commission and have someone record it so that it can be posted on the Environmental Commission Facebook page, so people in the public have access to it? Mrs. Maddox stated they could do that but she wants to be careful because the Environmental Commission is only involved with the bulkheads when soil and debris starts to fall into the lagoons not with code violations. Mr. Scaglione agreed with Mrs. Keen that he thinks it would be good to have the presentation posted somewhere so when people ask him questions about bulkheads he can point them in a direction to get some answers.

Mrs. Maddox also stated that we have to see because with COVID she does not know how long we will be doing in person meetings.

Mayor Marshall stated she knows that one of the council members once a year goes around and looks at all the Bulkheads and gives Mr. McAndrew a list of bulkheads that he thinks are a problem.

Mr. Scaglione also stated that something needs to be done about people that have ramps on the lagoon because when it floods, it takes all of the sediment and soil with it. Mrs. Maddox stated that they would have to work with the DEP to do that.

Mrs. Keen stated that another issue they have talked to Mr. McAndrew about is when there is a house in probate or foreclosure, what happens to a bulkheads then. She stated that she thinks that maybe there is a levy on the property. Mrs. Maddox stated that sometimes it is hard to find out who the actual owner is to hold them responsible. Mayor Marshall added that if a house is in probate everything stops until it's taken care of. Mr. Scaglione asked if the house is sold, does the bulkhead get paid by the new owner. Mrs. Maddox replied and said it will go into escrow and will be one and half times what it would have been.

Mrs. Keen thinks it would be very beneficial to have him come and speak whenever that may be and record it so they can post it on Facebook for the public. Mrs. Maddox stated she will reach out to him again and see when he is free to come in.

Map of Tuckerton

Mrs. Maddox stated she did not have a chance to do the Open Space overlay yet because it takes a little time. She did reach out to Jon Miller and she stated that there were some bids on the property but is not sure if anything was finalized yet, but he will get back to her. Councilwoman Taylor asked if that was the property on Tip Seaman. Mrs. Maddox replied that no it was not, it is the one next to the Grapevine and there is a smaller lot further down that

was going to go on auction. She continues to say that she believes the one on Tip Seaman would have sold because it did not have a lot of issues.

Mrs. Maddox stated we should also reach out to Ocean County to see what they are going to do with the Hartley property because it may be able to go under “Complete Streets” for Sustainable Jersey. She thought that they had not made a decision yet on what they are going to do and does not believe they will make one for a while because everyone is working from home. Mayor Marshall stated that these things take a while because even once they have an idea of what they want to do, they then have to put together the budget for it which takes a while.

Mr. Scaglione asked if the County consults with the Mayor and Council about ideas they may have. Mayor Marshall stated that not that she knows of.

Sustainable Jersey Presentation

Mrs. Maddox stated that she printed out the brochure that has different things we can get points for, however she only made one copy because it is very big. Mrs. Maddox’s stated she will send the link out and she suggests everyone try and take a look at the site because they have a lot of suggestions for project and even some resources for already started project which will make it easier to accomplish them. She continued that we only need 150 points to get bronze and the storm water management project they are discussing is 50 points right there and the Storm Drain is 20 points, so if we just do little things it will add up. She did not get an answer for the “Clean Streets” yet to see if we will be able to get points for cleaning up the highway.

Mrs. Maddox stated that we missed all of the timelines for this year because of COVID. We need to have the projects in by June. On September 11th we need to update where we are at with our projects. November 22nd we need to update them again with how well we are doing with them and then by mid-July the following year, we need to have the projects mostly completed and have pictures and data to back up all the work we have done for the grants. Mrs. Keen wanted to confirm that we need all of our projects in by June. Mrs. Maddox agreed and stated that yes we need them in by June, so right now we have time to get projects we want to submit together. She suggested that we reach out to Robert to Robert about Tree City because that gets a lot of points, as well as reach out to the Recycling team because different projects with them can potentially get us a lot of points. Another project Mrs. Maddox suggested was working with local restaurants to compost there take out containers and left over food. Mrs. Keen offered that she saw something about RubberMate has a recycling program where you mail in plastic containers and they will take care of them.

Mrs. Maddox stated that she was watching a YouTube video from Berkley Township that was cute and involved the kids in town which would be nice. Maybe that could be a green team project.

The Commission discussed what is able to be recycled and all the different rules that are always changing and why.

Mrs. Maddox confirmed that Tuckerton is still a certified town on the site. She said she is not sure what happened, but half of the towns have dropped off.

Sustainable Jersey Flyer:

Mrs. Maddox stated that we are still waiting for this to come out. Ms. Coritz asked if there was a specific name for this because right now she has just been calling this the Action Item Brochure. Mrs. Maddox stated that on the website they just call it the flyer.

Stockton Intern for Green Team Project

Mrs. Maddox stated that she has not reached out to Stockton or Nicole to inquire about an internship yet. Ms. Coritz stated that she called Stockton to try and get some information, but they were on break.

Salem Oak Seedling

Mrs. Maddox stated that she is not sure who to contact for this. Ms. Coritz stated that she will email Chris to get more information. She knows all the seedlings are still there but she is not sure what their game plan is. Mrs. Maddox stated that it would be nice if we could get a couple to try and plant. Mrs. Coritz offered that she thought each Municipality is supposed to get a seedling. Mrs. Maddox stated that they should just be careful where they plant it. She suggested maybe we could get the County to let us plant it at the Hartley Property, she also stated that they could get credit for planting trees as well.

Mrs. Maddox stated that we could even reach out to Mr. Gomez to see about helping the trees on his property.

Plastic Bag Recycling Legislation

Mrs. Maddox reviewed that the plastic bag legislation will not be taking effect until 2021 so we have some time to wait for that. Mrs. Coritz stated that Tnara came down to Manahawkin because they are talking about rescinding their ordinance since the emergency and she brought a lot of "swag" for them and talked to them about what is coming up. She continued that she believes that the county is working really hard to educate the public to get everyone ready for when this legislation does go into effect everyone will be prepared.

Tree City

Mrs. Maddox stated that they will need to get an update from Robert about this, however she has notice they have been trimming a lot of trees all up and down route 9 so there should be something.

Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission Membership

Mrs. Maddox asked Ms. Hollberg if she was able to find out if they would be able to use money to get this membership as well as submitting the application. Ms. Hollberg told the commission that she has the application as well as the price for the 2021 membership which is \$375. She stated that she needs to talk to Jenny about using some of the money for this. Mayor Marshall stated that the Commission would have to put a voucher in for it, and they are not able to do anything until next year with next year's budget anyway. Ms. Hollberg stated she will write up a requisition for the next meeting.

Mrs. Maddox stated that they do good trainings throughout the year that would be expensive without this membership.

Ms. Coritz wanted to know how much money would be left in the budget. She and Ms. Hollberg agreed about \$125 left. Ms. Hollberg also stated that the town is very picky about what they spend money on however so she is not sure if we would be able to use all of it.

FEMA Grant

Mrs. Maddox stated that the FEMA grants have mainly dried up because they have had 800 billion dollars of damage in disasters in the last year. She continued that the one project she did send to them to see if they would take it, they would not match so we would have to provide 25% of the funding on a 9 million dollar project. He stated that maybe next year depending on how many storms we have maybe we will be able to piggy back a couple things on that but as of right now there is no funding.

Green Team

Mrs. Maddox stated that she knows Mrs. Keen was working on stuff for the Ball Park. Mrs. Keen agreed and stated that Mrs. Maddox just sent her some information on a grant they can apply for to help with the Ball Park. The grant is for parks that are being used more because of COVID and people have nowhere else to go. She continued that she was going through the check list and was trying to download the application but you need a log on and she was not sure if she could make a personal account or if it had to be through the Environmental Commission. She said that a lot of the items on the checklist they already have and the application is not due until February, so she will work on this in the next week or so. She said that they money could be used for the roof, the siding, and handicap accessible doors for the bathroom.

Mrs. Keen asked if the second Green Team is the Waste Water Management project they were talking about and is that something we have to propose to Council. Mrs. Maddox stated that they do not have to propose it to Council, they just need to get a team together and she knows that Councilwoman Taylor wanted to be a part of it. She also stated that they will need a Chairperson for the team. Mrs. Maddox stated that she thinks this will be very beneficial to the Tuckerton Beach area, especially if they could work on the Storm Drains.

Mrs. Keen stated that she wasn't 100% sure, but she was pretty sure Wayne Wilkins was trying to get something done on Marine Street and they sent stuff into Jenny but they were just waiting to hear back.

Mrs. Maddox stated that a lot of the flooding problems on the island are because of trash build up on the Storm Drains so she believes these covers will really help. Mrs. Keen stated that she can only speak for Curlew, but she does not think most of the flooding on her street is from the garbage, it's because of the pilings and bigger things as well as the mailers. Mrs. Maddox agreed that the mailers are a big problem.

Mrs. Maddox suggest that Wayne would want to be on the Green Team but warned that he cannot push his own drains. Mrs. Keen agreed and stated that she will reach out to him.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Maddox stated that she saw that Ben Wurst was unable to come again today. Ms. Coritz stated that he was available to do a phone call tonight but she wanted to make sure that it was okay first. Everyone agreed that it was, and Ms. Coritz texted him and was waiting for a response.

Members Forum

Mrs. Maddox stated that she was talking to the food pantry on South Green Street and they are in need of grape jelly, so she was going to go out and get some jelly as well as some gift cards to donate to the pantry.

Mrs. Maddox asked Mrs. Everson if she heard anything about Adopt-A-Highway, she knows they were going to push it off until spring. Mrs. Everson stated that she has not heard anything from them. Mrs. Maddox than asked who the gentleman is that walks up and down every day? It was determine that his name is Bert. Mrs. Maddox continued that she saw him the other day dragging a whole trash bag just from cleaning up the roads. The commission suggested different places he could through away the trash.

Mrs. Keen stated that she put a link to the Dredging Page and the Tuckerton for Progress page stating that the Commission is looking for another member and if they are interested they should reach out to the Mayor but she noticed that there are not a lot of people that are willing to get involved now-a-days.

Public Forum

No public attended the meeting, therefore there was no Public Forum.

Adjournment

Seeing no other questions/comments/concerns Mrs. Maddox requested a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Everson motioned, second by Mrs. Coritz, it was so agreed by unanimous vote of the Commission to adjourn the meeting 8:06pm.

Sincerely,

Samantha Hollberg

Tuckerton Environmental Commission Secretary