

TUCKERTON BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, January 9, 2020 @7pm at Tuckerton Borough Hall (420 E Main Street)

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Sue Marshall called the Tuckerton Environmental Commission meeting to order on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 7pm at Borough Hall.

Swearing in

The Mayor swore in Cynthia Coritz, John Zmich, Jerry Schultz, and Doris Mathisen to the Tuckerton Environmental Commission.

Open Public Meeting Act Statement

The Open Public Meeting Act Statement was not read on the account that this was an unofficial meeting.

Roll Call

Cynthia Coritz (Chairperson)	P	Mark Salaga	A
Anthony Scaglione	A	Robert Rue	A
Pat Everson	P	Jerry Schultz	P
Bill Severage	A	John Zmich (Alt. #1)	P
Doris Mathesis (Alt. #2)	P	Sam Colangelo (liaison)	P
Samantha Hollberg (Secretary)	P		

Flag Salute

The Mayor led the salute of the flag.

Approval of Minutes

There were no approval of minutes do to the consolidation of the Waterways Commission into the Environmental Commission. It was decided that the brand new commission will start fresh with the additional new members and new goals of Waterways.

Recording of Hours

There were no recording of hours at this time.

Old Business

There is no old business at this time.

New Business

Environmental Commission Goals (Attachment 1):

Sam Colangelo states that this is an unofficial meeting and the goal of this meeting was to talk about how we are going to integrate the Waterways Commission into the Environmental Commission. He then passed out a handout with some of the goals of the TEC and the WC taken straight from the Borough's code book (*see attachment 1 below*). While going over the goals, Mr. Colangelo stated that the Commission did not have to do every goal stated in the code book, he suggested that the group pick a couple things to focus on throughout the year.

Cynthia Coritz asked if Sam Colangelo could give an example of an "unofficial body" that was stated in the first sentence of the fifth paragraph of the goals. Someone in the group offered that maybe the Boy Scouts would be an unofficial body.

Mr. Colangelo also wanted to clarify that the wording of these goals in the code book are from long ago, and should be up to interpretation. He gave the example in the last paragraph the first word "Manage" does not necessarily mean we should be going around policing everyone that needs to get there bulkheads fixed. John Zmich expressed that he felt the group should be more aggressive around town to get the bulkheads fixed, and that the wording in the code book should be changed if it is not going to be followed how it is stated. Sam reiterates that the wording is up to interpretation and that it is not our job to police the residents; that is the code enforcement office's job.

John Zmich mentions that paragraph eight of the goals taken from the code book should be a new priority for the Environmental Commission. The paragraph states that the Commission should make "recommendations to the Council concerning the restoration, protection and maintenance of all tidal and non-tidal waterways and shorelines within the Borough."

Environmental Commission Guidelines (Attachment 2):

After reviewing the goals for the Environmental Commission, Mr. Colangelo went through some of the guidelines for the Environmental Commission (*see attachment 2 below*). Under the 2020 Budget section Mr. Colangelo stated that we only have 25% of the budget as of right now. He also expressed that he wanted to ask for an increase in the budget this year.

For the Recycling Enclosure section do we want to do this enclosure again – if so the deadline for the enclosure is June 18 – we need this enclosure to be limited to one page – information can be on front and back – beyond one page leads to increased postage costs ... borough will make copies if asked – whether or not enclosure is included in water/sewer or tax bills will be determined by the Borough. He suggested we make this an action item for next meeting.

It was determined that someone from the group should get in touch with Robert Rue and get an update on the Tree City Project as well as make this an action item for Robert Rue for next meeting.

Cynthia Coritz stated that she has a really great resource through the Green Team Project that works with graphic design. She suggested reaching out to her and seeing if she would help make a flyer for the Green Team. Mrs. Coritz added that she thinks it would be a good idea to look into getting an intern through Stockton, to help with some of the busy work that comes with getting grants from Sustainable Earth. John Zmich asked what a Green Team is. Mrs. Coritz handed Mr. Zmich a folder containing information about Sustainable Earth/the Green Team. She explained that Sustainable Earth gives out grants to different municipalities who have green teams that can prove they are helping their community be more environmentally friendly. She went on to say there is also an Ocean County Hub for Sustainable Earth that meets up and discusses different ways to get these grants that she was a part of. However a lot of “grunt work” must be done in order to gather all the information needed to prove we are making the borough more environmentally friendly, which is why hiring an intern would be a good idea. Sam Colangelo suggested that maybe we dedicate a meeting to learning more about Sustainable Earth and the Green Team Project. Everyone agreed that would be a good idea. It was resolved that reaching out about the Green Team flyer, a Stockton intern, and planning a meeting to give a more in depth presentation on Sustainable Earth/the Green Team Project would be Cynthia Coritz’s action items to touch on next meeting.

Cynthia Coritz stated that the Pineland’s Short Course takes place on March 14th at Stockton University. This daylong event includes programs on climate and sustainability if anyone is interested in going.

The Commission discussed an email sent from Leigh Simpson, with the environmental group “Save Barnegat Bay”, who wanted to collaborate on some road clean-ups with us around the town. Cynthia Coritz said she would reach back out to Simpson and get more information. This will be an action item for the next meeting.

The Commission then discussed the progress of the Storm Drain Basin and Painting. Jerry asked what the Storm Drain Basin entailed. Mrs. Coritz stated that it was determined that Sam Colangelo would take these on as action items and report back with more information at the next meeting.

A Borough Street Planters update was made an action item for Cynthia Coritz. She said that she would reach out to John Bethanis, The Public Works Superintendent, to get more information on this project.

The 50th Anniversary of Earth day was discussed and it was explained that this year all municipalities were going to be getting Salem Oak tree seedlings from a fallen Oak tree. Sam Colangelo asked if someone wanted to look into locations to plant this and/or if someone wanted to think of ideas for the upcoming Earth Day. Mr. Colangelo suggested maybe Doris Mathisen look into this because she is also on the Pride & Celebration Committee; maybe they can look into planning something for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. It was decided that the

Salem Oak Seedling would be Doris Mathisen's action item, and finding open locations for the tree would be Sam Colangelo's action item.

Sam Colangelo asked if anyone has any updates on the guidelines for recycling plastic bags. He inquired if there is officially a ban on them? He suggested that the committee makes researching the legislation on the scope of recycling in NJ as well as getting more information on the local plastic bag ban an action item for next meeting.

Sam Colangelo inquired about the status of the Adopt-A-Highway Project. Pat Everson offered that we met the requirements last year, and organization reach out to us again asking if we wanted to participate this year. They wanted an answer by the end of December but Mrs. Everson wanted to wait and discuss this with the Commission before replying to them. The commission agreed to do it again but wondered if they could change the road they "adopted". Pat Everson stated she would find out more information for the next meeting. Adopt-A-Highway was assigned as an action item to Pat Everson.

At this time Sam Colangelo asked each one of the members that came from the Waterways Commission what are some priorities of Waterways that they wanted to see integrated into the Environmental Commission. Jerry Schultz stated he wanted to make sure the bulkheads around town are not falling into the water and that we should keep trying to monitor them. John Zmich wanted to know the process to start getting the ball rolling on changing the wording in the code book. Sam Colangelo stated that the wording is up to interpretation and offered that to change the wording the commission would have to go to the Council and it would have to be approved by legislation. Mr. Zmich stated that he just wants to see something be done about the bulkheads and believes that nothing will get done if the Environmental Commission does not take a more aggressive approach about taking care of them. Sam Colangelo reiterates that it is not the Commissions job to go around policing everyone about their bulkheads. Mr. Colangelo continues that it is the Code Enforcement Officer's job to enforce the maintenance of bulkheads. Jerry Schultz stated that he understood that it is not the Commissions job to go around telling residence to fix things on their property, however he was wondering if there was a way to make suggestions to the Code Enforcement Officer through the Environmental Commission that he would take into consideration. Mr. Zmich asked what exactly the Code Enforcement Officer's duties were. Sam suggested that maybe we dedicate a meeting for the Code Enforcement Officer to come in and explain what his duties are around the town, as well as answer any questions we may have for him. This will give us a better understanding of where the Commission as a whole stands. Sam Colangelo took this on as an action item for next meeting. Jerry Shultz expressed that the bulkheads do look a lot better than they did 30 years ago, but he goes on to say that if the Commission was able to put their name on the suggestions made to the Code Enforcement Officer a long time ago, the bulkheads would not be so bad.

Sam Colangelo moved onto the next item on the Guideline – TEC Chairperson. Mr. Colangelo asked Cynthia Coritz if she wanted to be the Chairperson for this upcoming year again. Mrs.

Coritz stated that she did not want to be Chairperson again due to growing outside responsibilities. Mr. Colangelo stated that next meeting the Commission needs to appoint a new Chairperson. The only people who are ineligible to be the Chairperson are Doris Mathisen and John Zmich because they are alternates. Cynthia Coritz wanted to confirm that this will be put in the January Minutes as well as on the February Agenda.

Let it be known that the Environmental Commission will be appointing a new Chairperson at the February 13th Meeting.

Sam Colangelo reads over the Meeting Format and the Voting Process that can be found in the TEC Guidelines.

Finally, Sam Colangelo expressed that as the liaison he will not be at every meeting due to other obligations such as being the Vice President of the OCMUAA. He believed this would not be a problem because he will still complete everything that is assigned to him by the Commission. However Mr. Colangelo stated that if any member of the Commission had a problem with this, they had to let Sam know.

Last Comments:

Sam Colangelo asked each member if they had any last comments before they ended the meeting.

Jerry Schultz & Doris Mathisen stated that he was excited to see how this new Commission plays out.

Cynthia Coritz wanted to make sure the Environmental Commission kept Sustainable Jersey as one of their focus points. She then addressed the members that came over from the Waterways Commission, and asked if the goals that were pulled from the code book correctly show what the Waterways Commission wants to bring over to the Environmental Commission.

John Zmich stated that he is also excited to see how everything come together but wanted to reiterate that he wants to work on the Environmental Commission getting more power over fixing the bulkheads around town. Mayor Marshall offered that it is not that simple because the town only has jurisdiction up until the water so it is a grey area on who is in charge of maintenance of the bulkheads.

Cynthia Coritz asked if the Code Enforcement officer gives a construction report at the Council Meetings that could offer more information on the Bulkheads in town. Sam Colangelo said that these are more questions they could ask the Code Enforcement officer when he comes in.

Assigned Action Items for Next Meeting:

1. Recycling Enclosure – Cynthia Coritz
2. Save Barnegat Bay – Cynthia Coritz
3. Adopt-A-Highway – Pat Everson

4. Storm Drain Basin – Sam Colangelo
5. Code Enforcement Presentation – Sam Colangelo
6. Borough Street Planters – Sam Colangelo
7. Map of Tuckerton – Sam Colangelo
8. Sustainable Earth Presentation – Cynthia Coritz
9. Reach out to Schools – Cynthia Coritz
10. Sustainable Earth Flyer – Cynthia Coritz
11. Stockton Intern For Green Team Project – Cynthia Coritz
12. Storm Drain Painting – Sam Colangelo
13. Salem Oak Seedling – Doris Mathisen
14. Plastic Bag Recycling Legislation – TBD
15. Tree City USA – Robert Rue

New Business

There was no New Business at this time.

Member Forum

There was no Member Forum at this time.

Public Forum

There was no Public Forum at this time.

Approval of Secretary Services

Jerry Schultz motioned to pay the invoices of \$75.00 to Secretary Samantha Hollberg for Secretarial Services for the month of January 2019. It was seconded by Doris Mathisen and was so moved with unanimous member consent via roll call.

Adjournment

Sam Colangelo asked if there was any other questions/comments/concerns and then offered to close the meeting. The Commission unanimously agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.

Attachment 1:

2020 Tuckerton Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission shall:

Formulate such recommendations to the Borough Council concerning open space preservation, water resources management, air pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscaping protection, environmental appearance, marine resources and the protection of flora and fauna.

Initiate studies concerning open space preservation, water resources management, air pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscaping protection, environmental appearance, marine resources and the protection of flora and fauna.

Keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, in order to obtain information on the proper use of such areas and make recommendations to the Planning Board and the governing body concerning the same.

Keep records of its meetings and activities and make an annual report to the governing body.

Coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes and advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets and promote public education programs which support recycling and the preservation of our environment.

Subject to the approval of the governing body, acquire property, both real and personal, in the name of the municipality, by gift, purchase, grant, bequest, lease or lease, for any of its purposes and shall administer the same for such purposes subject to terms of the conveyance or gift.

Appoint such clerks and other employees and incur such expenses as it may from time to time require, provided that the same shall be within the limit of funds appropriated to it by the governing body or otherwise available to it.

Formulate such recommendations to the Borough Council concerning the restoration, protection and maintenance of all tidal and nontidal waterways and shorelines within the Borough, including man-made and natural lagoons and adjacent waters of the Little Egg Harbor Bay.

Seek alternative sources of funding for waterway initiatives from all available public and private sources.

Manage projects with thorough communications and goals and coordinate with all county, state and federal regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over Borough waterways for the purpose of advancing local objectives.

Attachment 2:

TEC Guidelines - Colangelo

Meeting – January 09, 2020

- **Fiscal Year**
 - July 1 to June 30th
- **2020 Budget (25% of Total Available Now)**
 - \$ 900 – Salary wages (secretary)
 - \$1000 – Misc. expenditures (requisition required)
 - **these amounts could increase when budget is finalized
- **Recycling Enclosure**
 - 2500 copies needed (limit to one page, can use front and back)
 - Borough can make copies needed
 - Included in Tax bills (deadline by June 18th)
 - Included in Water/Sewer bills (deadline June 18th)
 - Administrative office will decide which mailing to include recycling copy due to postage rate determined by weight of all pages included in each mailing*
 - Any additional information to be included in mailings from TEC may be transmitted in copy form or digital media to administration where they will make copies for inclusion in mailings following the postage weight guidelines reference above*
- **Tree City USA** – determine current status
- **Sustainable New Jersey** – project update needed
- **Green Team Project Deadline** – June 1, 2020
- **Save Barnegat Bay** – help in clean-up request from Leigh Simpson – contact requested
- **Storm Drain Painting** – project update needed
- **Borough Street Planters** – project update needed
- **Storm Drain Basin** – project update needed
- **50th Anniversary Earth Day (April 2020)**
 - Salem Oak seedling will be presented to all municipalities
 - TEC to recommend location for planting of seedling
- **Plastic Bag Recycling**
 - State DEP has guidelines in place for recycling plastic bags
 - Check for any current legislation pending – commission members
- **Scope of Recycling**
 - County strict on what will be accepted at recycling center

- Educate the public
 - Encourage the use of reusable grocery type bags for all purchases
- **Adopt A Highway** – determine current status and future
- **Waterways Objectives Inclusion** – commission to set priorities
- **TEC Chairperson**
 - In discussion with the Mayor/Borough Administrator ... it was decided that the Commission Chair and Vice Chair can be decided among the members ... once identified ... that person will be appointed to the position through Resolution ... until that time the new Chair will be the Acting Chair for all meetings
- **Meeting Format**
 - Starts promptly at 7pm ... no quorum ... no meeting
 - All members must speak so they may be heard by the audience
 - Chairperson calls meeting to order
 - Chairperson directs all in pledge to the flag
 - Chairperson follows meeting agenda and runs meeting in an efficient manner
 - Chairperson follows agenda items and asks secretary to make notations for the record
 - Any comments from the public should be saved for the public forum unless the Chairperson asks individuals for comments ... we do not want comments yelled out or interjected by the public unless they are invited to comment
 - **Voting**
 - All motions must have a second
 - An “All in Favor Vote” and an “All Opposed Vote” – may be asked for after a motion and a second for: Open/Close the Public Forum, Open/Close Member Forum, Meeting Adjourned – Chairperson calls for the vote and announces whether the motion is carried or not carried ... only committee members may make, second or vote on motions
 - A “Yes” or “No” vote must be called for by the Chairperson and directs the secretary to take the vote by roll call ... members must say “Yes” or “No” or “Abstain” when voting ... Chairperson announces the voting result by “Motion Passed” or “Motion Failed” ... all motions, seconds and voting can only be made by commission members ... this type of voting occurs when decisions of the commission are made relative to: approving minutes, paying bills and approving actions/positions the commission makes, etc. ... when in doubt do this ... when this Yes/No voting takes place ... it is assumed that all commission members have had the opportunity to give input before the vote is called for ... just to be sure, before the vote is called for on the motion made ... the Chairperson may ask if there are any questions on the motion ... seeing none ... roll call vote ... remember this is a commission by resolution of the Borough of Tuckerton and as such must follow proper protocol in its official business meetings
 - Members of this commission will sit at the dais ... if all 7 regular members are present , the alternates will sit in the audience ... if a member is absent an

alternate is to sit at the dais (by alt.#) ... if all 7 members are present, the alternates do not vote on any matter, but may enter into all discussions

- Members are not to vote on accepting meeting minutes if they were not present at the meeting (they are to vote “abstain”) ... members absent from a meeting where a discussion occurred but the vote was deferred for this meeting should “abstain” unless a new discussion takes place ...secretary will help with this determination
- If through circumstances a “tie” vote occurs ... the matter should be tabled and reintroduced at the next meeting where the discussion leading up to the vote happens again and a new vote is taken at that time
- Chairperson with help from members will set the agenda for meetings ... upcoming meeting agenda will be transmitted to secretary for distribution as will minutes from meeting ... secretary will communicate pending minutes to chair for accuracy before sending to commission members

- **TEC Agenda**

- There are many important issues that the TEC may work on ... we should develop and update a list of meaningful projects we wish to undertake ... from that list we should focus on items that we can accomplish in a timely manner and work those items to a conclusion ... we are doing important things ... we should not spread ourselves too thin or have too many irons in the fire ... set priorities ... it is better for all of us to work one project than to have all projects work one of us ... members will be expected to share the work load

- **Liaison**

- As has been, the liaison will not be at every meeting due to obligations of being the Vice President of the OCMUAA where he represents Tuckerton and part of Southern Ocean County ... follow-up on action items will be by email to chair