

## **TUCKERTON BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Thursday, **November 19<sup>th</sup>, 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, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:07pm 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	A
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 September 2020 meeting of the Tuckerton Environmental Commission were circulated. Mrs. Everson made a motion to approve the minutes with changes, seconded by Ms. Coritz. 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 September and October.

Nedean Maddox (Chairperson)	30	Cynthia Coritz	4
Anthony Scaglione	8	Robert Rue	-

Pat Everson	4	Jerry Schultz	-
Doris Mathisen	-	Suzanne Taylor	-
Carolyn Keen (Allt #1)	2		

**Old Business**

Mrs. Maddox suggested that we take off some of the items under old business that we are tabling until the spring because there are so many items on the agenda. Everyone agreed.

***Recycling Enclosure:***

Ms. Coritz stated we should plan to do this closer to April or May because she believed tax bills go out in June. Mrs. Maddox stated this is an item we can put on hold until spring.

***Save Barnegat Bay:***

Mrs. Maddox asked Mayor Marshall if the Borough was already doing something with Save Barnegat Bay. Ms. Hollberg stated that at the last Council meeting, someone came and presented a project about reclaiming at North Green Street Park. Mayor Marshall stated that the Borough was working with the gentleman to get his reclaiming project off the ground.

Ms. Coritz wanted to confirm that this Save Barnegat Bay was on the agenda because it used to be Jersey Friendly Yards. Mrs. Maddox confirmed. She then stated that she needs to reach out to them because they just did a presentation on the island about how to make yards winter friendly and she wants to know when a good time to start planting is.

***Adopt-A-Highway:***

Mrs. Maddox stated that she thinks that the Commission should try and do at least one road clean up before the end of the year.

Mrs. Everson stated that she did get in contact with Joanne, the woman that is coordinating it all. She stated that they aren't doing a lot this year, but they would send us the materials if we wanted to do it independently, but Mrs. Everson would have to sign to take responsibility if anyone got sick during the clean-up and she didn't feel comfortable with doing that. Ms. Coritz asked if the program is on hold, does Pat Everson still have to sign something for them. Mrs. Everson stated that she does not. Mrs. Maddox suggested we put this project on hold now that we know that we will not lose our credibility and wait until we hear word that they bring the program back for everyone's safety.

***Storm Drain Basin:***

No new updates.

### ***Code Enforcement Speaker***

Mrs. Maddox asked about the Code Enforcement Presentation. Ms. Hollberg stated that she knew he was supposed to come to the October meeting which we did not end up having. She stated she can reach out again to see if he is still willing to come. Mrs. Maddox stated that she has to talk to him tomorrow anyway so she will inquire about coming to an upcoming meeting.

### ***Street Planters***

Mrs. Maddox stated that she does not think there is much we can do with the street planters right now. She stated we will have a lot of projects in the spring and we should try and start gathering volunteers now.

### ***Map of Tuckerton***

Mrs. Maddox asked what this item was. Ms. Hollberg and Ms. Coritz stated that it had to do with getting information on Open Spaces in Tuckerton. Ms. Hollberg summarized that we had the GovPilot software that the Commission can work with to see what was vacant or not. She then asked Ms. Coritz if she ever got in touch with her contact at the county to see if they were able to print something up for us. Ms. Coritz stated she would reach out. Ms. Coritz brought up the example that there are billboards that talk about auctions for land that the county might be interested in that may count as Open Space. She explained that is why we want a map of Tuckerton to see if we can find any open land. Mrs. Maddox stated that she could reach out to Jon Miller to see if he sold his land at the auction, however she thinks that it is a lot of wetland and would not be able to be developed. She stated that she has a map of the area that Ms. Coritz was talking about because someone was interested in buying the property but did not go through with it because of all the wetland problems so she do not know if the County would want them. Mrs. Maddox continued that the County did just buy a property in Tuckerton that could count as Open Spaces but she did not know what they were going to do with it yet. Mayor Marshall stated that they were planning to keep it the same for the most part, maybe add a walking path at some point but it will not be developed for anything. Ms. Maddox asked if she thought the county would let us use it for trails. Mayor Marshall stated that the Commission could ask.

### ***Sustainable Jersey Presentation***

Mrs. Maddox stated that the Hub is going crazy and she has not been able to keep up with everything. She stated that she believes that there is a presentation in Cape May and Atlantic County coming up. Ms. Coritz stated that she missed the Ocean County meeting. Mrs. Maddox stated that she tried to login but could not get into the presentation either. She said she will try and look for the ones coming up and send them out to everyone. Mrs. Maddox continued that they have not put a lot of stuff out because no one knows what the future holds at the moment.

### ***Reach out to Schools***

Mrs. Maddox believes that she does not think there is a lot we can do with the schools right now. Ms. Coritz stated that the Reaching Out to Schools item and the Sustainable Jersey item on the agenda coincide and suggests that they combined those items. Mrs. Maddox stated that she reached out to someone running for the Board of Education to see what they wanted to do because they did not know anything about it. They were going to discuss if they were going to make their own Sustainable Jersey group for the school or if they just wanted to join as a committee with us so they did not have to do all the work to make a group. Ms. Coritz stated that Tuckerton Elementary is already a part of Sustainable Jersey but they did not seem to realize that they were. She stated that they sent her to talk to the custodian or the superintendent. This is when she left the voicemail early in the day before the shooting a year ago. Ms. Coritz stated that once we get the Green Team figured out she will reach out again. Mrs. Maddox suggested that between all of the Commission's contacts maybe we will be able to get a butterfly garden at the school. Mayor Marshall stated that she believes that Tuckerton Elementary already had a butterfly garden. Ms. Coritz stated that there have been so many changes at that school that the person or people that set up their Sustainable Jersey may not even be there anymore.

### ***Sustainable Jersey Flyer:***

Ms. Coritz stated that this was the flyer with all the action items on it that is always changing. Mrs. Maddox stated that she hasn't seen any of the new ones. She tried to print the one off the web page but it is not printer friendly and she sent an email suggesting to make a printable version.

### ***Stockton Intern for Green Team Project***

Mrs. Maddox stated that Nicole is an environmental major at Stockton and wondered if she could be the intern because she is right here in town and she has served on the Environmental Commission. Everyone agreed that was a good idea.

Mrs. Maddox stated she has not had a chance to reach out to Manahawkin to find out more about their intern from Stockton and how they went about paying her. Ms. Coritz stated that Manahawkin got bronze status this year. Mrs. Maddox agreed and then stated that the island got silver status this year.

Mrs. Maddox believes that Nicole would be really helpful for this because she already knows a lot about the topic.

### ***Storm Drain Painting:***

Mrs. Maddox stated that we cannot do this item right now either.

### ***Salem Oak Seedling***

Mrs. Maddox asked if anyone has heard of any updates on this project and she also wanted to know if she thought the tree would even do well here because of how much salt is in the air. Ms. Coritz stated that South Jersey has a lot of oaks and they do well so she is not worried. She also stated that the Forest Nursery has all the seedlings there still. Mrs. Maddox stated it would be cool to have a tree that lives to be a hundred years old in town. Mayor Marshall stated that she remembers talking to the Public Works Supervisor, John Bethanis, about this a while ago but nothing ever came of it. She stated she will check in with him again. Ms. Coritz explained that no one got seedlings because they postponed the project due to COVID. She then explained that we were going to try and coordinate with Pride and Celebration on where we could put it. Mrs. Maddox suggested that we plant it on the new property they just acquired, but not sure if the soil would be right. She then asked if we would have to go through the County for that. Mayor Marshall stated they would because it's County property now.

### ***Plastic Bag Recycling Legislation***

Mrs. Maddox stated that the Plastic Bag Legislation did pass, however it would not be in effect until 2022. Ms. Coritz asked if it was incremental and then would be fully in effect in 2022. Mrs. Maddox answered that it wasn't even going to start until 2022 statewide. However she did say each Municipality has their own rules.

Mrs. Maddox explained that the legislature would prohibit no more single use bags or paper bags. Mrs. Maddox stated that she liked that the State took it a step further and banned paper bags too. She was upset when Manahawkin switch from single use to paper bags, because it still wastes trees and uses a lot of resources.

Mrs. Everson added that where she lives there are a lot of leaves and when she cleans up her yard she uses the big plastic bags to collect all the leaves but is unsure how to dispose of them. Mrs. Maddox stated that she uses the Lowes paper bags. Mrs. Keen stated that she remembered the town used to have a vehicle that would collect the leaves from the side of the road and help turn it into mulch. However she believes it broke a while back. Everyone agreed that they remembered this vehicle. Mrs. Keen continued that she believed that she just remembered seeing one of these vehicles recently in Barnegat.

Mrs. Maddox added that people need to be careful when getting rid of leaves because they are finding that a lot of caterpillar larva are being found in the leaves so they suggest trying to mulch the leaves back into the ground as well as waiting a little so the caterpillars are able to get out of the leaves before they are raked up. Mrs. Everson said that she has no shortage of leaves on her street and she sees a lot of big plastic bags filled with leaves and she does not think it is right. Mrs. Maddox stated that even though she uses the paper bags, she is wary of when to put them out because if it rains the bag will disintegrate. She stated that this is something that the Commission could put some thought into because she believes that getting

another vehicle would be very expensive. She added that Barnegat has their own Waste Management System as well so to have them come to Tuckerton would also be expensive.

Mrs. Maddox stated that should was going to reach out to Sharon in Manahawkin to see how they dispose of their leaves.

Mrs. Maddox asked if there is a place we can send the plastic bags after they have been used. She gives the example that she just bought a rug made of completely reused plastic and she says she likes it a lot. Ms. Coritz asked if this was a question for Tnara up at Ocean County Recycling. Mrs. Maddox stated that it might be or even Angelo on the island.

Mrs. Everson asked where everyone gets there bags to clean up their leaves. Everyone suggested Amazon, Walmart, Lowes, Home Depot, andTarget.

### ***Tree City***

Mrs. Maddox stated that Mr. Rue was not here again to speak about this, however she has seen a lot of stuff come out on this recently through. She was unsure of the group that was pushing it through. She continued that she will look through her emails to see if she can find them again and send them to Mr. Rue for his knowledge.

### ***Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission Membership***

Mrs. Maddox stated that that she did reach out to the representative from the ANJECM to get more information about pricing. She stated that it is \$500 for the year and another \$250 just to get to the end of this year so she suggested we wait until January to join so we are not wasting money. Ms. Hollberg stated that she printed out the line item of the budget for the Environmental Commission and stated that the Commission has \$500 in the budget. Ms. Hollberg stated that she can find out how to ask the Borough Council for more money in the budget next year if that is what they would like. Mrs. Maddox stated that they ask all the time but the answer is always the same.

Ms. Coritz stated that maybe this is something we can apply for a Sustainable Jersey mini grant for. Mrs. Maddox agreed. Mayor Marshall stated that the Council tries to find money wherever they can, and she believes they would give them more money for a membership. Mrs. Maddox explained what the Commission would get with the membership as opposed to without it.

### ***FEMA Grant***

Mrs. Maddox stated that she did look into the FEMA grant for the "spit project". She stated that she talked to Doug and he said that it would be about a 9 million dollar project and even if we were able to get the drawings and plans in on time, the Borough would still need to pay 25% of it which is still a 2.5 million dollars. Mrs. Maddox stated that she will stay in contact with him to see if any other projects or grant money may arise but with this specific FEMA grant, the town would not be able to pay the 25%. Mrs. Maddox continued that it is not off the table however they need to find more funding for it.

Mayor Marshall stated that there are no organization have been able to make money this year which will ultimately effect next year as well. Everyone agreed. But the Mayor is hopeful that things will open up more next year to help these organizations out.

Mrs. Maddox explained that the FEMA grant out there right now is funded and she stated that Doug believes that there will be more FEMA grants next year because it cost them more in damages than it would to fund these preventative projects. She continued that FEMA spend 5 billion dollars covering losses this year alone between the floods, fires, hurricanes, etc. that they are trying anything they can to prevent more losses.

Mrs. Maddox suggested that they talk to Long Beach Island about getting FEMA grants because they get more FEMA grants than any other municipality in the country.

Mrs. Maddox suggested that it's a good idea to get the public's opinion on things as well as the engineer's, because in the end the engineers are getting paid and do not care if they have to come back and redo a project because they get paid either way.

### ***Green Team***

Ms. Hollberg stated that the Green Team resolution was passed and that she has a copy that she will scan to Mrs. Maddox. Mrs. Maddox stated that we did get the Green Team approved by Council and have one for the ballfield clean-up. She also stated that she knew Suzanne wanted to start a Green Team for Storm Water Management because with the environmental piece, that will fit in. Mrs. Maddox believes this is a good idea because this affects almost every part of town. She asked that if anyone knows anyone that knows a lot about storm water management we are open to ideas. She continued to say that Suzanne has been to a couple webinars to learn more about storm water management that may be able to help us as well.

Mrs. Maddox stated that the people in Tuckerton Beach could use all the help they can get to stop the flooding down there. She said that she spoke with Jenny, the Borough Administrator, and she said that there are storm drains down there but they are not working because there is not enough grate to make them work.

Ms. Coritz asked if the town handles impervious cover or is that the county. Mrs. Maddox stated that it is up to town. She continued that if we want to look further into this, we would maybe want to think about having non-impervious payment in our yard, but this would have to be looked at further. Ms. Coritz asked if Ms. Hollberg could see if there is an Ordinance about impervious coverings in the town. Ms. Hollberg stated she would look up if the town has an ordinance on this matter. Mrs. Maddox stated that for FEMA its 75%. Mrs. Keen suggested this is why Curlew Road is so bad. Mr. Scaglione disagrees, he said that it floods in the beach area because when it is high tide and it rains, the water has nowhere to go. Mrs. Keen and Mr. Scaglione stated that when it does flood, the water comes through the storm drains not from over the bulkheads. Mrs. Maddox stated that she thought that happened just over the summer. Mrs. Keen and Mr. Scaglione both agreed that it's the flooding from the storm drains that are

more of a nuisance. Everyone agreed that there is a flooding problem in the beach area that should be looked at. Mrs. Maddox stated that there is a flooding problem up and down the jersey coast. She suggested that we reach out to some of the other municipalities to see what has worked for them to help with their flooding problems.

Mrs. Keen asked what the next step is for the Ballfield Green Team. Mrs. Maddox stated that once the Environmental Commission is informed that a Green Team is created, they can go off and start planning things however it is too cold right now for the Ballfield Green Team to do much of anything. However they should focus on trying to get the public involved because they do not have to make a long term commitment to the Commission like the Commission members do. Mrs. Keen reassured that they already have a plan to finish this project as well.

The other Green Team that Suzanne wanted to start will encompass a lot of the storm water problems they just discussed.

Mrs. Keen asked who the chair of the Green Team should be, to which Mrs. Maddox answered that someone from the Commission should be the chairperson so they can report back to the Commission and if that person were to need help the Commission would be able to help them.

Mrs. Maddox stated that once Suzanne has more information, she can come to the Commission to set up a Green Team for storm water management however she cannot be the chair because she is on Council. She continued that we will not be able to do anything until the next meeting. Mrs. Maddox stated that she will try and meet with Suzanne before the next meeting to try and set up at least an agenda for this green team so we can start getting the ball rolling. She suggested that maybe they could set up a Zoom call to talk more about it because unlike Commission meetings, Green Team meetings do but need to be advertised so they can meet whenever they want.

Ms. Coritz asked if each of the Green Teams will be checking the Sustainable Jersey website to see if they are meeting all of their action items. Mrs. Maddox confirmed that they will incorporate this into the Green Team to make sure they are meeting all of their requirements. She continued that Sustainable Jersey has not posted when we have to have our projects submitted by but she believes it is coming up. She continues that in March she thinks we need to give them an update as to where we are with the projects and then in September we have to have the projects completed. Once completed they will review all the projects to see if they have met all of the criteria and hopefully they will give us some credits which could lead to some grant money or bronze status.

Mrs. Maddox added that she emailed Sustainable Jersey to ask if we could get any points for the road clean-ups and they said they will look into it.

Mr. Scaglione asked if the subcommittee they formed a month back would count as a Green Team. Mrs. Maddox stated that they could not use a Green Team to talk about dredging but that committee could be for the storm water management Green Team. Mrs. Keen stated that



it was not for dredging, the committee was to talk about sustainable waterways such as the extension of the spit, Thompson's creek, and Landyard lagoon. Mrs. Maddox stated that all of these things fall under storm water management because they are all restorative projects caused by erosion.

Mr. Scaglione asked if he and Mrs. Keen should be talking to the contacts that Mrs. Maddox has at FEMA and the DEP with her. Mrs. Maddox stated that she is still networking with her FEMA contact and that for now she is still working on building a professional relationship with them. As for the DEP contact, the town works with them all the time as well as with the Army Corp of Engineers. Mr. Scaglione stated he just does not want to get into a position where he is finding information parallel to Mrs. Maddox and wonders if they should be working together more on this. Mrs. Maddox explains that at the moment she cannot get a hold of anyone because no one is in the office due to the pandemic. Ms. Coritz suggested that the committee ask for emails as well as phone numbers when reaching out to people because everyone is working from home right now. Mr. Scaglione just wanted to make sure that they start having something official for the subcommittee so they can start working on things. Mrs. Maddox stated that once she meets with Suzanne and gets more information she will let them know.

Mrs. Maddox continued that the project that the subcommittee was looking at, the FEMA grant, they cannot do anymore because of the town's finances. She stated that once they can find another grant, the committee can go out and try and get a concept drawing for that grant. Mrs. Keen and Mr. Scaglione wanted to know why they cannot work on getting the concept drawings first. Mrs. Maddox replied that every grant is different and you need to base your concept drawing off the specific grant.

Mrs. Maddox asked Mayor Marshall if they have given her any hard concept drawing for Lanyard Lagoon yet? Mayor Marshall stated that the town has not gotten anything yet.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Maddox asked if Ben Wurst would still be interested and coming to speak with us. Ms. Coritz said he would, and he was happy that people are interested in saving the turtles. Mrs. Maddox stated that she is not sure how much they could do, but they come up on Admiral Court and the raccoons and seagulls always get them. Ms. Coritz suggested that maybe that could be the new turtle garden.

### ***Members Forum***

Ms. Hollberg presented two Division of Land Use Regulation applications that were sent to the Environmental Commission over the last month to notify them of projects that are going on around town. Mrs. Maddox asked Ms. Hollberg to scan the applications to the members because she is interested to see what they are planning to do, especially in the wetlands.

Ms. Coritz stated that she has taken three native plant seminars lately. She said there is a lot of new information coming out like the "New Buzz" thing is not helping your plants in the winter

which she never knew. She also said that Sustainable Jersey is pretty good about giving you noninvasive plants species to substitute other plants with that still look similar. She said this reminded her about the ordinance about not planting invasive species. Mrs. Maddox stated that this ordinance was passed however it was only for commercial properties. Mrs. Coritz remembered that they were trying to get the town to only let people plant native plants, but nothing came of it. Mrs. Maddox suggested they make a flyer to give out and stated that there are quite a few out there that we can use. Ms. Coritz added that they should post it on the Facebook page.

Mrs. Maddox stated that Jersey Friendly Yards is always posting really useful stuff.

Mrs. Maddox offered that 15 new people followed the Environmental Commission Facebook page. Mrs. Keen stated that she will recommend everyone in the Tuckerton Beach Facebook group go like the Environmental Commission page.

Ms. Coritz brought up that she came to the Historic Preservation meeting last month and there were no cars. Ms. Hollberg explained that it was cancelled due to lack of quorum. Ms. Coritz asked how she can find out if a meeting is cancelled or not. Ms. Hollberg explained that along with being posted on the bulletin board in Borough Hall it is normally posted on the calendar on the Borough Website.

Ms. Hollberg asked what the Commission wanted to take off the agenda for right now. Mrs. Maddox stated that anything that the Commission is going to push to spring can be taken off for right now. She continued that she thought it would be nice if we could get the guy who presented at the Council Meeting for reclaiming South Green Street Park to come talk to the Commission. Ms. Hollberg asked if she could get the guys contact information if they would want him to come in and talk a little about what they were planning.

Ms. Coritz was concerned that with COVID cases spiking again, she is not even sure if the Commission will meet in person next meeting. Mrs. Keen asked why the Commission could not do a Zoom if everything closes down again. Ms. Coritz asked if any other Board has switched to virtual meetings yet. Ms. Hollberg answered that the only time a Board did a virtual meeting was when the Borough was still closed back in the summer and the Land Use Board had to meet to approve invoices they needed to pay. Mrs. Gleghorn helped their secretary set up a GoTo Meeting for them. Ms. Hollberg continued that she could ask if she would do that for the Environmental Commission as well. Mrs. Keen offered her Zoom account for the meetings, but Mrs. Maddox and Ms. Hollberg explained that because these are town meetings, and that need to be open to the public, it would be best if they used the town's account. However, Ms. Hollberg also stated that they should not worry about it unless the Borough actually decides to close. Ms. Coritz suggested that they wait to have the Reclam guy come and present until we know if the Borough will be open or not.

Ms. Coritz also asked if we should wait to have the Code Enforcement Officer come in as well. She also wanted to know if he was coming in to just talk about Bulkheads. Mrs. Maddox stated

that she was going to ask him tomorrow if he still is willing to come and talk to us. She also explained that he was going to come in so we could discuss different land materials falling into the lagoons including bulkheads if they are not properly maintained. Ms. Hollberg stated that she thought that his presentation was mainly going to be about the Bulkhead ordinance and what he does to make sure people are following it. Ms. Coritz asked if this ties into the Environmental Commission because he is talking about different materials that may fall into the lagoons. Mrs. Maddox confirms that she is correct.

Mrs. Maddox continued that she thinks the Commission should really try and get an ordinance in the books to prohibit different materials from falling into the lagoons and storm drains especially as a water front town.

### ***Committee Reports***

Mrs. Maddox stated that at this time there are no committee reports. However when we have our Green Teams, the chairs can discuss their progress here.

### ***Public Forum***

Seeing as only the Mayor was there representing the public, Mrs. Maddox asked if she had anything she wanted to add or say. Mayor Marshall stated that the only thing she wanted to add was that the New Year is approaching and if anyone knew of someone who wanted to join the board, they should write a letter of interested addressed to the Mayor. In the beginning of the year she will be making appointments for the new boards and commissions. Ms. Coritz asked if that is something we could put on the Facebook page and Mrs. Maddox answered that she could do that. She continued that she believes that there is only one opening for the Environmental Commission right now and that it is for the alternate #2.

### ***Adjournment***

Seeing no other questions/comments/concerns Mrs. Maddox requested a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Everson motioned, second by Mr. Scaglione, it was so agreed by unanimous vote of the Commission to adjourn the meeting 8:57pm.

Sincerely,

Samantha Hollberg

Tuckerton Environmental Commission Secretary