

TUCKERTON BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, **August 13, 2020** @7pm at Tuckerton Borough Hall (420 E Main Street)

Call Meeting to Order

Mrs. Coritz called the Tuckerton Environmental Commission meeting to order on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 7:02pm at Borough Hall.

Swearing in

The Mayor swore in Nedeane Maddox to the Tuckerton Environmental Commission

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

Cynthia Coritz (Chairperson)	P	Nedeane Maddox	P
Anthony Scaglione	P	Robert Rue	P
Pat Everson	P	Jerry Schultz	P
Doris Mathisen	P	Sam Colangelo (old liaison)	P
Suzanne Taylor(new liaison)	P	Samantha Hollberg (Secretary)	P

Flag Salute

Mrs. Coritz led the salute of the flag.

Approval of Minutes

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

Recording of Hours

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 months of February through August.

Cynthia Coritz (Chairperson)	1	Nedean Maddox	0
Anthony Scaglione	0	Robert Rue	2
Pat Everson	2	Jerry Schultz	2
Doris Mathisen	2	Sam Colangelo (liaison)	2
Samantha Hollberg (Secretary)		Suzanne Taylor	0

Old Business

Recycling Enclosure:

Mrs. Coritz stated we have missed the deadline. She explained that last year we tried to put inserts into the tax bills about what can and cannot be recycled because the rules are always changing. Mr. Rue asked if there was any group mailings going out soon that we could put inserts in. Mr. Colangelo responded saying that there were none that he knew of. Mrs. Maddox asked if there was a way we could put the Recycle Coach app out on “Nixile”. Mr. Colangelo stated that we can put some literature and the app up on the website. Mr. Rue asked to clarify what can be recycled and Mr. Colangelo answered by saying bottles, cans, boxes and paper is all that can be recycled right now.

Save Barnegat Bay:

Mrs. Coritz stated that this was on our agenda because of Jersey Yards. Mrs. Maddox stated that Jersey Yards is independent this year, but they are doing a lot of virtual things this year.

Adopt-A-Highway:

Mrs. Everson stated that at the last meeting we decided to let our Adopt-A-Highway run out because if we said we did not want to participate in it, we would lose the signs. In June we got a memo saying that it was up to us if we still wanted to participate and they would give us certain things to protect ourselves but it’s our responsible not there’s. She continued that at some point we are going to have to participate and respond to them but it does not have to be right now. Mrs. Coritz explained where the Adopt-A-Highway was located and stated the issue was that we have to do four road clean-ups a year. Mrs. Everson stated that requirement was waived. Mrs. Everson continued that she did not want to respond to them yet because we have not been able to meet and discuss it all together. However at the moment the signs will not be coming down. Mrs. Coritz suggests deferring this until the next meeting. Mrs. Everson agrees. Mr. Rue added that the clean-ups do not take that long to do and it’s only a couple times a year and makes the street look cleaner. Mrs. Everson stated that we also discussed maybe trying to do different parts of town but if we don’t do where the signs are, we will lose them. Mr. Rue asked if we still have all the stuff. Mrs. Everson stated yes we do, and they would supply the extra stuff.

Open Space in Tuckerton:

Mr. Colangelo stated that the Borough has three areas of open space- South Green Street Park, Tip Seaman Park and Tuckerton Seaport. And that's as defined by Ocean County. He provided the link below that gives the County's definition as well as some other information on open space.

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/access/docs/draftmpaps/tuckerton.pdf>

He stated that he does not remember exactly why he was supposed to get this information, to which Mrs. Coritz stated that there are a couple things we could get credits for, for having open space in town. Mr. Colangelo stated that Land Trust just purchased the "Hartley property" across from the Public Works yard, which he stated is a sizable piece of land. He says the state will come in and take out all the pilings and everything but the town has no control over that.

Mrs. Coritz stated that she contacted the county and they were going to provide us with a map of unbuilt-on properties in Tuckerton that may be considered as Open Space that are vacant. Unless that is something we could do in house. Mr. Colangelo said he thought that was something that she was going take care of, and Mrs. Coritz said okay.

Mr. Colangelo took a moment to introduce Suzanne Taylor as the new full time liaison for the Environmental Commission

Storm Drain Painting:

Mr. Colangelo stated that the best time to schedule this would be from May through August, so he suggested that we may have to delay this project until next year because of flooding, high tides, etc. He stated that all the materials for this project are at the Public Works Yard. He continued by stating that the commission needs to work through the public works supervisor for this project as well as a couple others such as the storm drain basin project.

Storm Drain Basin:

Mr. Colangelo stated that he believed this should be a low priority project. He recommends that we suspend this project all together. Mrs. Hollberg stated she will forward the email that Mr. Colangelo is reading from so everyone has the information he put together. Mr. Schultz brought up the storm drains on Anchor road. He continued that when they were re-done, they were not built to properly drain, and now when it rains badly, they overflow and there are a lot of dead animals and mosquitos. Mr. Colangelo suggests that as a group they should put in a request to have it looked at by the public works supervisor who may have to reach out to the engineer to see what the problem might be. Mr. Schultz says the problem is that when they were drawing up the plans they did not plan a place for the water to drain to. Mr. Colangelo clarified that the Storm Drain basin that he is talking about is the one locate behind Borough Hall, not the ones on Anchor road, however if you feel they should be looked at, the Commission can write a letter to the Public Works supervisor.

Mrs. Maddox explained later that Jersey Yard is doing a lot of basins right now so maybe we can get them to help us with our project.

Code Enforcement Speaker

Mr. Colangelo explained that the Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. McAndrew, is still available to come to a meeting to speak more on the different zoning and coding ordinances he enforces on a daily basis if that is still something the commission is interested in. We can contact him again to see when he is available.

Street Planters

Mr. Colangelo explained that this is another project that will need to go through the PW supervisor. He also has plans and we should try to coordinate so we are not working against each other.

Map of Tuckerton

Mr. Colangelo clarified that Mrs. Coritz was going to try and get a map from the county. Mrs. Coritz said that yes- she is speaking with the planning department to try and get something printed out. Mr. Colangelo said this might also be something we are able to do through the Tax Assessor and if that is something that you want to do, it should come as a formal request through your new liaison. He has been pretty helpful with other projects not related to this. Mrs. Maddox stated that the Open Spaces website also has a feature that might be able to help us find different Open Spaces throughout the town, but that's not vacant, its designated as open space. Open spaces is a facet within the DEP.

Sustainable Jersey Presentation

Mrs. Maddox stated that this was a webinar back in the spring. Mrs. Coritz stated that she believed that this was the event that was supposed to happen in June.

Stockton Intern for Green Team Project

Mrs. Coriz stated that she remembered trying to reach out to Stockton to find an intern and they finally got back to her around March but then all the students went virtual and it was not going to work. She still believes its possible, she just needs to figure out what the protocol would be if they are not allowed to actually work in person. She states that she will reach back out to the professor for more information because she does not know what Stockton is doing for the fall semester.

Salem Oak Seedling

Mrs. Mathisen stated that she never heard back from the people running this project. She is not sure if they ever got the seedlings or not. The mayor was asked if she ever heard anything, to which she responded she also never heard anything about it. Mrs. Coritz said that it is possible

that the project started to fall apart once COVID hit, she suggested that maybe staffing was tight which may have contributed to the slowness of the project.

Plastic Bag Recycling Legislation

Mrs. Coritz explained that for the last year or so we have been doing research with other towns about recycling and maybe put some information together for Chris Connors, the Borough Attorney, to look at. But stopped for a while because New Jersey was doing their own thing, however we are not sure if any sort of legislation has passed yet. It was determined that no one believed so.

Tree City

Mrs. Coritz stated this is one of our oldest projects. Mr. Rue said he has not followed up recently though.

New Business

Appointments

Chairperson: Mr. Scaglione nominated Nedeane Maddox for chairperson, second by Mr. Rue. It was so moved by majority vote of the commission.

Vice Chairperson: It was also determined that Pat Everson will retain her role as Vice Chair. In the event that the chairperson is unable to attend meeting.

Secretary: Mr. Schultz nominated Samantha Hollberg for secretary, second by Mrs. Maddox. It was so moved by unanimous vote of the commission.

Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission Membership

Mrs. Hollberg introduced an email that was sent to her a while back from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission. She stated that she will be forwarding the email after the meeting but wanted to talk about it first. She continued to explain that they host different events as well as send us a magazine. She stated that it is a sort of subscription though so the commission would have to pay for it. She wanted to see what everyone's thoughts were. Mrs. Maddox added that if you want to go to any of their webinars you have to be a member or it costs money. Mrs. Hollberg agreed and stated that she did not do a ton of research on how the Association works, she wanted to bring it to the Commission's attention before she proceeded in anyway.

Members Forum

Mrs. Coritz asked if Mrs. Maddox should be taking over the meeting at this point. Mr. Colangelo stated that she cannot because she has not been appointed by the mayor yet. And that will not be able to happen until the next council meeting, which is when she will be able to assume official chairperson duties.

Mr. Schultz wants to make sure that we are pursuing the problem with the storm drains on Anchor road. He states its way past due! It was asked if he ever look at the actual plans, or if they were supposed to be self-draining? Mr. Schultz stated that he did look at the plan when they were being built, and if they are supposed to be self-draining, it takes them 2 weeks to self-drain.

Mrs. Coritz clarified that if we want to get in touch with the Public Works Supervisor, we should go through the secretary Ms. Hollberg and copy the Liaison.

Mr. Rue stated he was not at the last meeting where Mr. Zimich brought up the bulkheads, but he believes that Little Egg Harbor regulates bulkheads while the DEP regulates docks and filings. Little Egg Harbor has an ordinance in place that if you do not have a maintained bulkhead you cannot sell your property. Mr. Colangelo stated that they do have something, and this is where Mr. McAndrew could help us. He said we have the power to make recommendations for ordinances that can get moved up to the legislation committee, but it all starts by putting it into writing to start the process. Mr. Rue confirmed that if Tuckerton has a bulkhead ordinance, it just does not have teeth. Mr. Colangelo stated that is why if you want to revisit it, you should go through the proper channels so it can have teeth.

Mrs. Maddox stated that we also need to look at land that is higher than the bulkhead. It needs a barrier because the sediment can impede the waterways. She stated we have no power to change this but she called the DEP and they stated that it's not allowed to happen. They stated we need to have a barrier. No soil should be going into the lagoons or even the storm drains. Mrs. Maddox stated this is another piece of legislation we want to get some teeth into so this stops happening.

Mr. Scaglione states that some properties have ramps into the lagoons and after storms a lot of soil from these properties enter the lagoon this way. He stated that this should also be addressed when dealing with bulkheads. People need to put something on these ramps to prevent earth from going into the lagoons. Mr. Colangelo explained that we should add all of these concerns into the letter about changing the bulkhead ordinance.

Mrs. Coritz asked the secretary if there needs to be an "approval of Secretary Services" section in the agenda. Ms. Hollberg explained that because she is an employee of the Borough, they do not need to vote on paying her, instead the payment is incorporated into her paycheck.

Mrs. Coritz then goes on to thank Mr. Colangelo for all of his years of service on the Environmental Commission. She stated that she truly appreciated all of his guidance and leadership throughout the years. She then welcomes Suzanne Taylor as the new liaison and looks forward to working with her.

Mr. Rue stated that he wanted Mr. Colangelo to know that the Dog Waste Stations are getting low on bags. Stated that our dogs make good use of them and they were a good idea!

Mr. Scaglione stated that there are a lot of new residents in the Tuckerton beach area, and he sees a lot of kids swimming in the lagoon. He is concerned because after a big rain fall, a lot of waste runs off into the lagoon and many of the kids get sick. He wants to know if there is any way to get the word out to let kids and families know to wait until at least the tide change to go swimming so they do not get sick. Mr. Colangelo suggested that this is something Mrs. Taylor can bring up at the next council meeting. Mr. Rue agrees that this is a good idea to try and get the word out. Mr. Scaglione stated he also was going to reach out to the Tuckerton Beach Association to make them aware as well.

Mr. Scaglione then brought up that there was a conversation on the Tuckerton/Little Egg Harbor Facebook page about a lawn on a water front property and how to properly mow it. He wants to know if there are any laws at the state or local level that concern proper lawn care for water front properties. He wants to know if there are specific types of fertilizer you have to use, etc. Mrs. Maddox stated that there is no law but it is recommended not to use fertilizer. Mr. Scaglione asked if this is something that can be pursued in the Borough. Mrs. Maddox explained that the DEP is starting to do studies on this more to start cleaning up our lakes. Mr. Schultz suggested that a lot of people use vinegar, salt, and soap to kill weeds without using harsh chemicals. Mr. Scaglione stated that if people really wanted to make an effort they do not need to use harsh chemicals. He suggests Mrs. Taylor say this at the next meeting as well.

Mrs. Maddox stated she posted a couple things on the Environmental Commission page when she sees them. The last couple things she posted were things she shared from Long Beach Island, maybe Harvey Cedars. Mrs. Coritz thanked Mrs. Maddox for keeping up with the page.

Mr. Schultz stated that there are a lot of turtles this year and that the fertilizer is probably harming them as well when they come up the lagoons to lay their eggs. He suggests that for the next year we try and get signs for turtle crossings. He stated that a lot of residents make there own sign, but he thinks an official one near the old Gris Mill and also maybe near the meadows by Tuckerton Beach. Mrs. Coritz explained that maybe Ben can come speak to us more about this. He is from Conservation Wildlife Foundation and he helped out with the turtles on Great Bay Blvd. She continued that she was out there the other day and she only saw one flattened terrapin, which is great considering there are hundreds of turtle eggs over there. Mr. Schultz explains that there are so many turtles that his neighbor actually goes out and directs traffic to let them cross safely.

Mr. Scaglione state that from the minutes in January it looked like there was a section where the priorities of the waterways commission were discussed. He asked if any of these were discussed or if they still need to be discussed. Mrs. Coritz stated that no they were not. The January meeting was spent mostly talking about the Environmental Commission projects. Sam Colangelo suggested that the commission should put this on the agenda for one of the upcoming meetings. Mrs. Coritz asked Mr. Scaglione if he would like to put a presentation together for the next meeting. Mr. Scaglione said that he will do that and present with the other old members of the waterways. Mr. Scaglione stated that Mrs. Maddox probably know

the most, but he can think of a couple of things he would like to share. Mr. Colangelo said that the liaison could get them a copy of the Waterway Commission ordinance that should have the duties of the commission listed in there, to incorporate into the presentation. He believes that the ordinance is #8-2019. It was stated that this information could also be found on the website. Mr. Scaglione started to read a couple of the objectives that were attached to the January 2020 minutes just to clarify that he was looking in the correct place.

Mr. Scaglione believed that the merge of the two commissions works as well because originally, when they were separate, the Environmental Commission would deal with the lake whereas the Waterways Commission would handle issue more with the beach. However most of these problems are now combined so it makes sense for the two Commissions to combine as well. Everyone agrees with this. Mr. Colangelo stated that the lake was removed from the Waterways mission statement, to which Mr. Scaglione stated that he did not believe it was there at all. Mrs. Coritz pointed out that the Environmental Commission deals with fresh water while Waterways dealt with salt water. It was also agreed that Tuckerton does not own most of the lake anyway, it'd mostly county, so its hard to do anything with it.

Mr. Colangelo stated he had one last comment, He wanted to tell everyone how much he appreciated working with everyone over the years. He enjoyed the meetings and all the personalities that were here throughout the years and he is walking away confident with this group and hopes that he will be included in all the projects in the upcoming years such as Adopt-A-Highway and thank you for a great experience!

Public Forum

Mrs. Coritz stated that seeing that there is no public she moved to pass on Public Forum.

Adjournment

Seeing no other questions/comments/concerns Mrs. Coritz requested a motion to adjourn. Jerry Schultz motioned, second by Robert Rue, it was so agreed by unanimous vote of the Commission to adjourn the meeting 8:12pm.

Sincerely,

Samantha Hollberg

Tuckerton Environmental Commission Secretary