

Tuckerton Environmental Commission

Thursday, January 10, 2019
Tuckerton Borough Complex
420 East Main Street
Tuckerton

Sam Colangelo called the Tuckerton Environmental Commission meeting to order on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 7:00 PM in borough hall.

Open Public Meeting Act Statement: *“Provisions of the open public meeting act have been complied with, as notice was published to the Beacon and Asbury Park Press, stating the time, date, and place of this meeting.”*

Roll Call / Attendance

Cynthia Coritz	X	Nedean Maddox	X
Robert Rue	X	Nicole Babcock	A
Pat Everson	A	Sam Colangelo, Liaison	X

Also present at this meeting were: John Bethanis, Director of Public Works; John Grogan, Recycling Coordinator; Parker, Recycling employee; Councilman Frank D’Amore; and residents Judy Colangelo, Joe LaRocco, Alan Kostelnik, Elaine McClure, and Beth Garvin

Sam Colangelo led the flag salute.

Public Forum-

Sam Colangelo thanked everyone for attending and welcomed John Grogan, recycling coordinator for Tuckerton Borough, to the floor for an open discussion about the local recycling program. This began with a question and answer session between Sam and John, and then questions from the public and Commission members were taken.

Sam to John: What is single stream recycling?

A: Single stream began as a way to simplify the process of recycling down to 1 can at the curb, one truck picking up

Sam: And those little triangles? They can be confusing - are all recyclable?

A: No, not at all. They definitely confuse people. #1 triangles only at the local level, basically.

Sam: Plastic beverage type bottles - recycle with lids on, or off?

A: Every town does this differently. In Tuckerton, OFF, please.

Sam: Corrugated cardboard is recyclable, yes?

A: Yes.

Sam: Paper?

A: Yes.

Sam: Shredded paper?

A: NEVER in your curbside bin, it contaminates everything it comes in contact with and defeats the purpose of recycling. So, only on document shredding day at the recycling facility.

Plastic Bags?

A: HUGE no-no. Recycle those at the store, as they constantly clog the sorting machines otherwise.

Sam: Pizza boxes?

A: Yes if they are clean and empty, no if they are greasy or have stuck-on cheese and such.

Sam: Peanut butter jars? Those can be tough to clean, especially down at the bottom.

A: When in doubt, throw it out.

Sam: Pill bottles with labels still attached...are they considered contaminated?

A: No.

Sam: How about milk cartons, either plastic or paper?

A: Plastic cartons, rinse them out and recycle with no cap. Paper? Toss those in the garbage.

Sam: A colleague brought me a print out from Galloway's recycling program...are all recycling program's rules the same?

A: No, recycling streams differ from county to county. Up north they recycle more because it is market driven.

Sam: Soup cans? Yes. Cereal boxes. No. Flat boxes? Yes. Corrugated cardboard? Yes. Six pack containers? No. Yogurt containers? No.

Sam: Okay, so you put your recyclables in the can, and the truck picks it up. Where does the truck go from there?

A: the South facility in Manahawkin, then on to Lakewood.

Sam: Back to plastics - some is recyclable, some not. How do we as residents know which is which?

John: There is a handy tool, a recycling app, available on the Tuckerton Borough website. When in doubt, throw it out, or at the very least, RINSE IT OFF and recycle it with no lid. Basically, if there is no buyer, no end user for the recycled material, it isn't recyclable and will eventually end up in a landfill. Plus, so much usable material gets contaminated when residents fail to rinse off food-contaminated recyclables, or with shredded paper. We used to get paid for recycling, but it looks like soon we will need to actually pay for it.

Sam: Christmas trees, leaves and brush...I saw a garbage truck picking those up today. Where does that go?

A: The mulching facility.

John: The County is getting choosy, so a lot that comes to us gets rejected at their facility.

Sam: So in a lot of ways, Tuckerton is ahead of other towns, because we hand sort, first at the curb and again at our facility, before anything goes to the County.

Sam: So it's really not that simple. We need to know what we can safely recycle and feel good about.

John: The good news is, there's an app for that. The Recycling Coach app is a great tool, very user friendly.

<https://recyclecoach.com/usa/nj/tuckerton/8245/reminder>

Sam: And the ForOcean.com group out of Florida looks pretty neat. In the past, there wasn't nearly as much waste OR as much awareness. We simply didn't understand where it was all going. The Tuckerton website has a recycling coach, too. It tells you your recycling pick-up days, including holiday schedules, and which items may be picked up at the curb vs. what needs to be dropped off at a facility...and when. For instance, tires and fluorescent bulbs can go directly to the County facility, but not Tuckerton. Our public works yard accepts marine paint. It all depends on what we can safely process and sell, and what the County can accept. Costs are going up, so we all need to do everything we can to maximize recycling efforts.

I will now open the floor to questions.

Robert Rue: Our recycling containers...must they be the typical blue ones?

A: No, we can tell recycling from trash because Tuckerton's trash cans are the automated type.

Resident: When one hears the word "contamination" one thinks of food, but it seems it can be the wrong materials sorted together also?

John: Yes, China doesn't want the world's garbage. When in doubt, THROW IT OUT.

This concluded the Q&A with John. The meeting recessed at 7:47, and the meeting reopened at 8:00pm.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the December 2018 meeting of the Tuckerton Environmental Commission were circulated. Nedeane made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Robert. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Logged Hours: Landmarks 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 December 2018.

Cynthia Coritz	5	Nedeane Maddox	29
Robert Rue	2	Nicole Babcock	A
Pat Everson	A		

Old Business:

Citizen email to T.E.C. regarding invasive species in town-

Cynthia responded to the citizen's email regarding the kudzu vine between Dynasty Diner and the second hand store, and did a site inspection to find the vine is dead, at least for the season. She will speak with the business owners

Outreach table-

It was mentioned previously that perhaps we could have outreach table at local events such as events at the Seaport. Nicole was not in attendance with a list of Seaport events. 4th of July was discussed as another possibility. Pat is on the committee for that event and has contacts with the Pride and

Celebration Committee. She will request of list of 2019 events. She was not present at this meeting. Anyone else with knowledge of local events may email a list to Jennie.

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup-

Two dates have been decided upon for 2019. Need to get the word out to the public and get better attendance by TEC members. The Commission set the following dates for 2019: Sunday, March 10th; Saturday, May 25th; August TBA; end of October/early November TBA

Plastic Bag Ban-

Gov Murphy did not sign the state-wide ban. Pat mentioned the wastefulness of bagging leaf debris rather than curbing leaves as other towns allow at a previous meeting. Tuckerton Borough does not have a leaf vac system at this time, and there are currently no plans for Public Works to acquire one. Cindy recommended mowing and composting leaves as an alternative to bagging.

Naomi reminded the Commission about the Jersey Friendly Yards workshop previously discussed under New Business, scheduled for March 5 at Jacques Cousteau.

TEC Facebook page-

Council President Colangelo got permission for Nicole to create a TEC facebook page to help the public know what we do and how they can get involved.

New Business:

No new business

Members Forum-

Cynthia mentioned that the 30th Annual Pinelands short courses are now open for registration. One class available is Pinelands Forests, regarding the effect of climate change on the forests. \$50 and worth every penny.

Natural Resource Inventory - Cynthia found an old copy on CD. If she can open it she will share it to the archive.

Nedean made the Commission aware of Dale Parson's involvement with Barnegat Bay initiatives. She hopes to invite him to an upcoming meeting to discuss the Save the Bay expansion, with 3 acres of back bay added for 2019.

Approval of Secretary Services

A motion to pay the Commission Secretary, Jennifer McEwan, for service in the month of January 2019 was made by Robert, and seconded by Nedean. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Adjournment-

Robert motioned to adjourn, Nedean seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer McEwan, Tuckerton Environmental Commission Secretary