

OCEAN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
March 29, 2010
7:00 PM

Meeting began at 7:10 PM.

Chairman Lippincott began the meeting by stating that one member was en-route to make a quorum for the Commission, however Chairman Lippincott felt we could unofficially begin the meeting.

Flag Salute

Chairman Lippincott introduced himself and Deputy Mayor Tredy. The rest of the commission introduced themselves as well.

Mr. Ambrosio and Ms. Clune addressed the commission regarding Clean-Up Day and how they would like the Zoning/Code Enforcement Office to join in Clean-Up Day efforts. Code/Zoning would hand out flyers; send out notices of violations with property maintenance issues in hopes that the residents would take advantage of the event. After Clean-Up Day, the Code Enforcement Officer would review these properties and if the properties were cleaned up, the violations would be cancelled. Matt Ambrosio added that there would be very little additional impact to the day and felt this is a good idea. Chairman Lippincott was very receptive to the idea. The Commission will get back to Ms. Clune on a final decision.

Mr. Rossnagel arrived.

Open Public Meeting Act – Pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, sending copies of the notice of the meeting properly provided adequate notice of the meeting to the Times Beacon and the Asbury Park press. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Administration Building.

Roll Call:

Members present: Ed Covitz Tom Leaming
 Don Lippincott Bill Rossnagel

Members absent: Heide Geary, Bob Knowles, Pat McCarty, Jack Henderson

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Chairman Lippincott asked for a motion to take action on the March 1, 2010 Regular meeting minutes. Ed Covitz made a motion to approve the March 1, 2010 Regular meeting minutes. Tom Leaming seconded the motion. All in favor: (aye).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Lippincott started by stating that the Environmental Commission is only an advisory board. The Commission does not make any rules, regulations, or ordinances. The Commission has an excellent relationship with the Township Committee and had the opportunity and privilege in working with them on various environmental issues. Most recently, the newly adopted Fertilizer Ordinance from Stafford Township has been brought to the attention of the Environmental Commission for review and consideration.

Chairman Lippincott introduced Committeeman John Spodofora of Stafford Township who graciously agreed to speak on their ordinance. Mr. Spodofora brought along two members of his Environmental Commission.

Committeeman spoke gave background on Stafford's Fertilizer Ordinance and why they chose to put this type of ordinance in place. The ordinance is not an enforcement tool, it is an educational tool. Education is key. The ordinance is straight forward and easy to follow. The ordinance does not restrict the sale of any fertilizer. It does restrict the times of the year you can apply fertilizer. The only thing banned is phosphates and fertilizers that contain phosphates. Many local towns bordering the bay are looking into adopting similar ordinances. Mr. Spodofora is currently working with Toms River and Bricktown. The towns on LBI are also being encouraged to adopt an ordinance. Nitrates and nutrients are also a problem, but it is felt that if people simply follow the instructions on the fertilizer bags and don't over apply, that should be okay. Professional landscapers are required to take a one-hour course. Certificates are issued and stickers can go on their vehicles to make sure that the commercial applicators understand how to properly apply the fertilizer. The fertilizer needs to be kept off impervious surfaces. Councilman Spodofora is offering to Waretown and the Long Beach Island towns that any commercial contractors can attend the course in Manahawkin. Large areas such as golf courses are required to do a soil test. Classes are free of charge to any resident that wants to attend. Stafford's ordinance was not long and published in the paper. It is recommended to use a drop fertilizer rather than the spread around type.

Chairman Lippincott and Deputy Mayor Tredy explained to the residents that this meeting is just to discuss the possibility of an ordinance. In order for it to become an actual ordinance in town, the Township Committee has to have two hearings.

The Stafford Township ordinance can be found on their website. The County does not want to create an ordinance.

Deputy Mayor Tredy spoke regarding the Stafford ordinance and the future of an ordinance in our town. Deputy Mayor Tredy said we are looking into it and are trying to move it forward so that it can be put on the Township Committee agenda shortly.

Stafford's ordinance originally was a model ordinance written by the NJDEP and was built off of that. They have looked at years of research.

Everyone agreed that getting the word out to all residents is the hard part. Newsletters were suggested by audience residents once an ordinance is in place. Homeowner Associates could be notified via email or newsletter, or Environmental Commission members could go to Association meetings to educate.

Mr. Ambrosio added that the Township is switching to OceanGro which is organic fertilizer for use in town.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Leaming, seconded by Ed Covitz. All in favor: (aye).

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth O'Connor, Secretary