

TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN

Environmental Commission

JANUARY 30, 2023 – 5:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

Donald Lippincott	<u> X </u>
Thomas Leaming	<u> X </u>
Richard Lipman	<u> X </u>
Lorraine Flohr	<u> X </u>
Kenneth Fekete	<u> X </u>
Patricia Mosier	<u> X </u>
Diane B. Ambrosio	<u> Absent </u>
Alt #1 Jack Henderson	<u> Absent </u>
Alt #2 Robert Knowles	<u> X </u>

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT – PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY PROVIDED BY SENDING COPIES OF THE NOTICE OF MEETING TO TWO NEWSPAPERS, THE ASBURY PARK PRESS AND THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY. THE NOTICE WAS POSTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE TOWNSHIP CLERK AND ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

REGULAR MEETING

NOMINATION FOR CHAIRPERSON for the year of 2023:

Donald Lippincott was nominated as Chairperson for the year of 2023 by Robert Knowles, seconded by Patricia Mosier.

Ken Fekete questioned the election of the Chairperson. Due to information in the Town code book, Deputy Mayor Lydia Dodd discussed that the ordinance does state that the Chairperson will be selected by the Mayor. However, the committee decided to allow for election of the Chairperson by the Environmental Commission for many years. Therefore, it is fine for the commission to elect their Chairperson. If a Chairperson cannot be elected, then the Mayor will appoint one.

Donald Lippincott	<u> Abstain </u>
Thomas Leaming	<u> X </u>
Richard Lipman	<u> X </u>
Lorraine Flohr	<u> X </u>
Kenneth Fekete	<u> Abstain </u>
Patricia Mosier	<u> X </u>
Diane B. Ambrosio	<u> Absent </u>
Alt #1 Jack Henderson	<u> Absent </u>
Alt #2 Robert Knowles	<u> X </u>

Donald Lippincott, Jr. was officially elected as the Chairperson for the year of 2023.

Meeting was officially turned over to Chairperson Lippincott.

NOMINATION FOR VICE CHAIRPERSON for the year of 2023:

Thomas Leaming was nominated as Vice Chairperson for the year of 2023 by Robert Knowles, second by Lorraine Flohr.

Donald Lippincott	<u> X </u>
Thomas Leaming	<u>Abstain</u>
Richard Lipman	<u> X </u>
Lorraine Flohr	<u> X </u>
Kenneth Fekete	<u>Abstain</u>
Patricia Mosier	<u> X </u>
Diane B. Ambrosio	<u>Absent</u>
Alt #1 Jack Henderson	<u>Absent</u>
Alt #2 Robert Knowles	<u> X </u>

Thomas Leaming was officially elected as the Vice Chairperson for the year of 2023.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes: April 4, 2022

Robert Knowles made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, from the April 04, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Thomas Leaming.

Donald Lippincott	<u> X </u>
Thomas Leaming	<u> X </u>
Richard Lipman	<u> X </u>
Lorraine Flohr	<u> X </u>
Kenneth Fekete	<u>Abstain</u>
Patricia Mosier	<u> X </u>
Diane B. Ambrosio	<u>Absent</u>
Alt #1 Jack Henderson	<u>Absent</u>
Alt #2 Robert Knowles	<u> X </u>

The meeting minutes from the April 04, 2022 meeting were officially approved.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes: June 6, 2022

Robert Knowles made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, from the June 6, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Patricia Mosier.

Donald Lippincott	<u> X </u>
Thomas Leaming	<u> X </u>
Richard Lipman	<u> X </u>
Lorraine Flohr	<u> X </u>
Kenneth Fekete	<u>Abstain</u>
Patricia Mosier	<u> X </u>
Diane B. Ambrosio	<u>Absent</u>
Alt #1 Jack Henderson	<u>Absent</u>
Alt #2 Robert Knowles	<u> X </u>

1. Correspondence

Secretary Bonfonti discussed that the correspondence the Environmental Commission received prior to today's meeting was listed on the agenda in detail and provided ahead of time. Secretary Bonfonti discussed that if any member is interested in viewing any item of correspondence, they are welcome to do so. Secretary Bonfonti discussed that most of the correspondence is legal notifications alerting the Township to permit applications being made within the Town.

2. Old Business

Secretary Bonfonti discussed that the article attached to the agenda was the information found regarding the fines at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant.

Chairman Lippincott discussed that if any member, upon their review of the article, feels there is more to discuss the commission can have a discussion at the next meeting.

Secretary Bonfonti discussed that she will be renewing the ANJEC membership for the Environmental Commission for the 2023 year.

3. New Business

Secretary Bonfonti discussed that the Annual Report for 2022, reflecting the activities of the Environmental Commission, was provided to the Township for review.

The Annual Report reflects the activities of the Environmental Commission in 2022. Secretary Bonfonti discussed that it outlined the dates the Environmental did, and did not, meet. It also outlined the events the Commission was involved with: Sustainable Jersey Certification and the Town Wide Clean Up. The Report acknowledged that Sustainable Jersey was not met for the 2022 year, but the Township and Commission work to meet Sustainable Jersey Recertification in the 2023 year. The Report also acknowledged the Environmental Commission members who were able to assist with the Town Wide Clean Up: Donald Lippincott, Jr., Thomas Leaming, Jack Henderson, Robert Knowles, and Lorraine Flohr.

Deputy Mayor Dodd suggested that, as it gets warmer, the Environmental Commission should go to the Lighthouse Camp, and see what is being done with the Living Shorelines.

Chairman Lippincott discussed having a joint meeting with the Lighthouse Camp during the summer.

Ken Fekete inquired what the Green Team actually is, what they are supposed to be doing, when they are supposed to be doing it, and what responsibilities they have.

Secretary Bonfonti discussed that the formation of the Green Team was a requirement for initial certification with Sustainable Jersey. The Green Team is an extension of the Environmental Commission, and the members of the Environmental Commission dually serve as the members of the Green Team.

The main event that the Environmental Commission/Green Team assist with is the Townwide Clean Up held in June of each year.

Bob Knowles discussed how previously the Environmental Commission held clean ups along the rail trail, as well.

Chairman Lippincott discussed that at one of the summer meetings the Environmental Commission should discuss returning to the rail trail to clean up parts of the trail that are in need once more.

Ken Fekete inquired about an Environmental Resource Inventory Report. Ken Fekete discussed he read about it in the ANJEC handbook.

Chairman Lippincott explained that there are instances where the Township undergoes studies, or surveys, under the office of the Environmental Commission. Chairman Lippincott used the tree experts who went out and did a tree survey throughout town as an example.

Ken Fekete inquired about the Site Plan Report that is also mentioned in the ANJEC handbook.

Chairman Lippincott discussed that there was a period of time where the Environmental Commission would review Site Plans in its' advisory capacity. The Commission never approved or denied Site Plans.

Deputy Mayor Dodd discussed that the Landscape Engineer and Township Engineer reviews the Site Plans, as well.

Chairman Lippincott discussed that an Environmental Commission member can certainly review the Site Plans at any time as long as they are not delaying the project in doing so.

Ken Fekete discussed he is concerned about personal liability as a member of the Environmental Commission if fines were assessed to the Commission for failure to meet a requirement.

A discussion was held to determine the exact liability the Environmental Commission would face if the Environmental Commission failed to meet a requirement. It will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Secretary Bonfonti took a moment to thank the Environmental Commission for their time, and willingness to volunteer on the Commission. Secretary Bonfonti reminded the group that the Environmental Commission is a volunteer group, and if at any point a member does not feel comfortable participating they are not obligated to continue to do so.

Chairman Lippincott agreed with the statement from Secretary Bonfonti.

A discussion was held to determine future meeting dates.

Ken Fekete inquired about attending events of interest.

Secretary Bonfonti discussed that if there is an event of interest the Commission is welcome to send it over for approval by the Township Committee if they would like to attend.

Chairman Lippincott discussed one of the main goals of this Commission is to stay educated on the environmental topics concerning the Township of Ocean.

Vice Chairman Tom Leaming discussed a potential environmental concern of having excess bait in the water attracting more whales. The discussion was that it is a concern that the whales are running into ships as a result of being attracted to the area due to excess bait fish in the water.

Richard Lipman discussed a marine traffic app that enables you to see all the vessels in a given area, and track the whales, as well. It tells the ships when the whales are in the area, and to slow down so the whales are not endangered.

A discussion was held about engaging more public participation at the Environmental Commission meetings.

The Environmental Commission discussed having a meeting dedicated to the Living Shorelines.

Motion to Open for Public Comment:

Patricia Mosier motioned to open for public comment, seconded by Lorraine Flohr.

All in Favor: _____X_____ Opposed _____NONE_____

Motion to Close Public Comment:

Patricia Mosier motioned to close for public comment, seconded by Tom Leaming.

All in Favor: _____X_____ Opposed _____NONE_____

Motion to Adjourn

Chairman Lippincott motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Patricia Mosier.

All in Favor: _____X_____ Opposed _____NONE_____

Meeting Dates 2023 – 5:00 pm

March 6, 2023

May 8, 2023

July 10, 2023

September 11, 2023

November 13, 2023

Signed and Submitted:

Amanda Bonfonti, Secretary
Environmental Commission

Date