

MEETING MINUTES

TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
Environmental Commission
September 03, 2024 – 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>absent</u>
Lorraine Flohr	<u> X </u>
Kenneth Fekete	<u> X </u>
John Lane	<u>absent</u>
Diane B. Ambrosio	<u>absent</u>
Alt #1 Jack Henderson	<u> X </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

Approval of the Meeting Minutes: June 03, 2024

Bob Knowles made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, from the June 03, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Lorraine Flohr.

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

1. Correspondence

Secretary Bonfonti discussed that there were a few pieces of correspondence, for the Environmental Commission, received for the September 03, 2024, meeting. Secretary Bonfonti discussed that the correspondence the Environmental Commission received prior to today's meeting was listed on the agenda in detail and is available to be reviewed at the Clerk's office in Town Hall. 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 the correspondence received was generally public notification letters of applications being filed to the NJDEP for various projects residents were applying to complete within the Township.

2. Old Business

The Environmental Commission began by discussing the thank you letter they received from the Department of Public Works for their assistance with the Town Wide Clean Up in June. The Environmental Commission also discussed the statistics provided by the Department of Public Works regarding the specifics of what was collected at the Clean Up.

Kenneth Fekete would like the Environmental Commission to send a thank you to the Department of Public Works for all their hard work during the preparation and execution of the Annual Town Wide Clean Up. The Environmental Commission members collectively agreed to send a thank you to the Department of Public Works.

Tom Leaming discussed that he would like to see a picture taken of all the volunteers/workers who participate at the Town Wide Clean Up each year.

Jack Henderson discussed that he would like to have the statistics of what was collected at the Town Wide Clean Up, provided by the Department of Public Works, publicized in the Township email and on the Township website for public knowledge.

Kennth Fekete discussed that it was very nice to see how important, and useful, the Town Wide Clean Up is to many Township of Ocean residents.

3. New Business

Chairperson Donald Lippincott discussed the Planning Board will be discussing the Waretown Town Centre at their next meeting.

Bob Knowles inquired what is happening with the house that is vacant on the property of the Town Centre.

Lydia Dodd, Mayor and Township Committee Liaison to the Environmental Commission, discussed that the vacant home on the Town Centre property goes with the sale of the property.

Lydia Dodd discussed that there are some parts of the Waretown Town Centre which could still be developed further.

Donald Lippincott discussed that the expansion of the Waretown Town Centre would ultimately be good for the Township overall.

Lorraine Flohr inquired about how BLOC, the dispensary within the Township, is doing.

Lydia Dodd discussed that BLOC is doing very well here.

Donald Lippincott also discussed wanting to bring back the “Adopt a Storm Drain” project that they used to facilitate. In the past, groups, such as the Boy Scouts, would adopt a storm drain, paint it, and monitor it for when it needed to be serviced. When the drain was full, the group responsible for the drain would then let the Township of Ocean’s Department of Public Works know that the drain was full and needed to be emptied.

Jack Henderson discussed a few events coming up at the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education. Jack Henderson discussed two events: a Pig Roast fundraiser on September 14th, and an Open House on September 28th.

Jack Henderson discussed that the Open House will give residents of the Township of Ocean, and surrounding Towns within the County of Ocean, the opportunity to visit the Lighthouse Center and learn about everything that the center has to offer. The Lighthouse Center has direct access to the inlet channel for Barnegat Bay, and residents can learn about the Wave Attenuation Devices stationed there. These WADs help to prevent erosion.

Jack Henderson also discussed the Youth Fishing Seminar, which was held at the Lighthouse Center recently, as well. The seminar offered children from the joint military bases the opportunity to come in, learn about the sea life at the Lighthouse Center, and they were even given rods, reels, and tackle boxes to take home.

Lydia Dodd suggested inviting the Ocean County Commissioners to the Open House at the Lighthouse Center on September 28th.

Jack Henderson discussed that the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education is a wildlife management area that is open to the public.

Jack Henderson discussed that there is a need for long-term funding of the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education, and so much history on the property.

Donald Lippincott discussed holding the next Environmental Commission meeting, set for September 30, 2024, at 5:00 pm, at the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education.

Tom Leaming inquired if the creek/canal at the Lighthouse Center is navigable by boat.

Jack Henderson answered yes, in some spots the canal is 10 feet deep.

The Environmental Commission discussed that it would be ideal to have members from groups such as ANJEC in attendance at the Open House, or the next Environmental Commission meeting, to see what the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education has to offer the residents of Ocean County, and beyond.

Motion to Open/Close for Public Comment:

No public was present at the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Tom Leaming made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob Knowles.

All in Favor: Opposed NONE

Meeting Dates 2024 – 5:00 pm

September 30
November 4
December 2

Signed and Submitted:

Amanda Bonfonti, Secretary
Environmental Commission

Date