

MOORESTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, January 27th 2022, 7:00 P.M. @ Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT: Joan Ponessa, Chris Salvatico, Steve Toniatti, James Barry, Stephen Jaffe, George Gravenstine, Barbara Rich, Brian Thomas, Nancy Jamanow & Quinton Law. Guests: Don Lloyd (Director, Public Works), Nicole Gillespie (Mayor), & Henry Balikov.

MINUTES: Approved. Moved by Barb and seconded by George.

REORGANIZATION: Elections of officers for the current year were conducted.

<i>Chairperson</i>	Joan Ponessa	Nominated by: Barb & Seconded by: Brian
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Barb Rich	Nominated by: Chris & Seconded by: Brian
<i>Secretary</i>	Chris Salvatico	Nominated by: George & Seconded by: Joan

Voice vote was unanimous for all three positions.

Joan welcomed the new members to the Committee and asked them to introduce themselves to the group. She also stated that the Committee will meet on the third Thursday of every month.

GUEST SPEAKER: MEAC invited Don Lloyd, Director of Public Works to attend the meeting to talk about various issues compiled in a previously shared list of questions. Those paraphrased questions and Don's answers are shared below.

1. There were recent upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Could you please explain what has been accomplished at the Plant? In the Moorestown Coastal Vulnerability Study, the wastewater treatment plant was rated as very vulnerable. What is / was done to address that? Don responded that the two digesters are being cleaned out with the first one being complete. There is also a bid going out to secure a contractor to raise up the existing manholes on site. This will help elevate them and help prevent flooding.
2. Bel Canto Asset Growth Fund is applying to the NJDEP for a Treatment Works Approval (TWA) as part of a checklist necessary for administrative completeness for their project at the mall. There is also the 375-unit apartment complex and the new Cooper development going in at the mall as well. Will these added facilities overload the existing wastewater system and if so, what is being done to address that? Don responded that the pumping station that handles those facilities is going to be upgraded to handle an extra load. These upgrades will be done by the applicant. As for the system in general, Don stated that no other upgrades are necessary.
3. Joan informed Don that there is an issue around excessive water use from automatic sprinklers and that this should be addressed in some way through added enforcement and additional education. She also mentioned the need to update the water report that is sent out every year to residents to include some water saving tips. She also spoke to the issue of leaves being raked into the street and blocking storm drains making a particular point of it sometimes being done after the last leaf pick-up for that area. How should this be addressed? Don replied that this year because of the quirks of nature it became necessary to add an extra leaf pick-up day in one District because the original day fell before many of the leaves had turned and fell.

4. Barb asked Don if it was necessary to think about a Town Ordinance concerning septic systems inspections. Nancy stated that the County health department was responsible for septic issues.
5. Stephen Jaffe asked if the Town was still under any water restrictions. Don and Nancy stated that it was not.
6. Chris asked if there was some way MEAC can help Public Works in some way. Don responded that this was his first meeting with MEAC so did not yet have an answer for that but is always interested in working closely with us in the future.
7. Resident, Henry Balikov asked additional questions about what was being done at the wastewater treatment plant to combat possible flooding issues as well as how the rest of the Town's system was in general. Don stated that question might be better answered by the operator, Bill Butler. Nancy will consult with Mr. Butler for more information. Don did mention of a sewer inspection project for 1,500 feet of line in the Wagonbridge section of Town.

FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF BASIN LIST: Nancy had previously sent an email to MEAC that contained a spreadsheet and a map showing all the basins that have been cataloged by MEAC and the Township. The list included 137 entrees. Chris made a motion to accept this list and Brian seconded it. No final vote was taken.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:

Bel Canto Asset Growth. PB#2021-40: Block 3000, Lot 3. 400 Route 38. The applicant proposes to revitalize the mall through the construction of a multi-family development consisting of 375 dwelling units, connected parking garage, grading, sidewalks, landscaping, and utilities. MEAC was able to review updated documentation for this project. There is one report still outstanding; the SI Report (SIR) for Potential Historically Applied Pesticides. Nancy will inform MEAC when it arrives. This project will be heard at the February 17th Planning Board meeting.

“YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT” AND COMMITTEE CHARTERS: Nicole Gillespie (Mayor), spoke of 2022 being declared “The Year of the Environment in Moorestown” which will include a new environmental focus each quarter. The first quarter of the year will be dedicated to sustainable energy. The Mayor mentioned that Moorestown had 20 solar projects awarded by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) and spoke about the plan to replace Main Street lighting with LEDs. The second quarter will focus on reducing single-use plastics to coincide with the State's upcoming ban. The third quarter will concern reducing food waste and the fourth quarter will focus on air pollution.

She also mentioned that the Council will take this year to review all the various Committee charters since many have not been updated in years.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY (ERI): Chris and Joan updated the Committee on the progress of the ERI. They have received first drafts of some sections and have reached out to various groups for additional pieces. For example, we have received write-ups from and for the police department, Fire District 1, the Tree Committee, town history, Open Space GPS project and an updated executive summary. Joan is in current contact with the schools and George said the Strawbridge Lake write-up will be complete soon as well.

STORMWATER ORDINANCE: Quinton reported that he spoke with Kevin Aberant and he is reviewing the Princeton Ordinance. They are working to determine where the “teeth” are in the document and how it is being enforced. Work will continue.

OPEN SPACE: Barb reported that the Trucksess family is updating their proposal to the Township for the property.

COMMENTS: Quinton Law reported that he and the Mayor are holding a listening session on speeding in town at 7:00 P.M. Friday, January 28, 2022 virtually. All are invited to attend.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The next following standard meeting will be scheduled for Thursday February 17th at 7:00 P.M. virtually. Nancy stated that committees can go back to in-person meets in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M. Moved by Brian and seconded by Chris.

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Salvatico, Secretary.