

MOORESTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, February 17th, 2022, 7:00 P.M. @ Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT: Joan Ponessa, Chris Salvatico, Steve Toniatti, James Barry, Stephen Jaffe, George Gravenstine, Barbara Rich, & Quinton Law.

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

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Nancy emailed the Committee photos of the newly cleaned out basin in front of town hall.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:

Hunter Door. PB#2022-10: Block 3900, Lot 26. 107 Whittendale Drive. Hunter Door Service, Inc. is proposing to construct a parking lot expansion along the rear, or northern side, of the existing building and paved parking area. The parking lot expansion will include concrete curbing, asphalt pavement for parking and drive isle, concrete pad and fencing for trash enclosure, rip-rap stabilization aprons, installation of pole and building mounted lighting. There will be an increase of approximately 5,446 +s.f. (0.125+ acres) of impervious surface coverage and an increase of approximately 5,446 +s.f. (0.125+ acres) of regulated motor vehicle surface coverage with a total area of disturbance of 15,098+ sf. (0.35 + acres). The proposed improvements involve less than 1.0 acre of disturbance and less than 0.25 acres of new impervious surfaces, the proposed improvements are not classified as a "major development" pursuant to the NJDEP Stormwater Regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:8). As such, the project is not required to comply with the rate/volume reduction and groundwater recharge requirements outlined in N.J.A.C. 7:8. MEAC had no comment on this application. Moved by Chris and seconded by George for no further action. Unanimous vote of the Committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY (ERI): Chris and Joan updated the Committee on the progress of the ERI. They have received the Strawbridge Lake write-up, as well as a portion of the bird section. Joan and Chris had the first DVRPC status meeting with Mel Musie. These meetings will take place monthly with the next one occurring on March 18th, 2022. Joan also met with the Tax Assessor and with Patty Hunt to obtain business and census data.

STORMWATER ORDINANCE: James Barry reviewed MEAC's suggested updated Stormwater Ordinance as well as the updated ordinances of other towns. He also reviewed the Haddonfield litigation. He is of the opinion that an attempt to update the Stormwater Ordinance with rules for residential minor developments will attract legal action from the Builders League. Continued Committee discussion resulted in the possibility to achieve some of MEAC's goals through the use and modification of the Zoning Ordinance. This would require the submission of a stormwater plan with the construction permit application.

On an additional front, ANJEC is requesting that municipalities propose a Resolution in support of the ability of municipalities to protect public health, safety, and welfare from threats of flooding.

ANJEC can then use this to support their lobbying efforts for the same. Quinton agreed to discuss the matter with the Mayor.

Next steps are to invite the current chairman of the Zoning Board, Walter Fazler to our next meeting to discuss the possibility of working together on this issue. Motion to table the issue until next meeting was set by Chris and seconded by George with a unanimous vote of the Committee.

MEAC CHARTER UPDATE DISCUSSION: Town Council is planning to update committee charters and have asked the various committees to discuss and suggest changes. MEAC took a first readthrough of the charter and suggested several changes. One of the more important discussions was the desire to be given enough time to review documents and render opinions on a timely basis. Chris will compile all the changes into a clean document and distribute to the Committee for review with the goal of holding a vote on it next meeting.

“2022 YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT”: Joan and Quinton updated the Committee on the special meeting that took place with Council and Stakeholders on February 2nd, 2022 to discuss their ideas for the 2022 Year of the Environment. Joan and Chris represented MEAC at that meeting. MEAC is in support of the effort through its work on the ERI as well as through its work on various other environmental efforts throughout the year.

Additional discussion on water use and conservation took place. It is the desire of MEAC to promote environmentally friendly water use in Town. It needs to be confirmed what water conservation rules are still in effect. Quinton agreed to research this for the Committee.

Stephen Jaffe mentioned that many Townships use the “Areas in need of Redevelopment” rule to help promote clean up of blighted areas. He is of the opinion that Moorestown should use this tool as well. The Committee was receptive to this idea.

PLATES FOR “DRAINS TO STREAM” FOR STORM SEWERS: Many of the original metal plates that were glued to storm drains in town have disappeared. MEAC feels that this project is better suited for Sustainable Moorestown or STEM to take on. It could also make a good Eagle Scout project.

OPEN SPACE: Barb reported that the Trucksess family is restoring the house on the property. There is the possibility that the Township will only be able to acquire a portion of the 55-acre property at this point. The Carson Farm parcel is back in discussion for acquisition. The County is planning to upgrade their walking and biking trail along Creek Road. This would help tie together Little Woods and the Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve.

COMMENTS: Chris mentioned that the Sustainable Moorestown “Solar Fireside Chat” took place Wednesday, February 16th, 2022. It was well attended and well received. The presentation was recorded and will be posted on-line.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The next following standard meeting will be scheduled for Thursday March 17th at 7:00 P.M. in Library Meeting Room B.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M. Moved by Stephen Jaffe and seconded by Chris.

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Salvatico, Secretary.