

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joyce Lovell at 7:09 p.m.

The "Open Public Meeting Act" notice was read, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was answered by Chairperson Lovell and Commissioners Callaghan, Elton, Flowers, Horn and Sills. Absent was Commissioner Sautter.

The minutes of January's meeting were previously e-mailed to members of the Commission. The following corrections were made:

1. Pertaining to the bylaws – Article VII, Committees, Section 1 – added to the sentence deleting the Budget Committee were the words "**to be replaced with the Treasurer's Report**". (The Treasurer's Report is included in the amended order of business list.)
2. January's minutes reflected that our Bird Quest sponsorship of \$100.00 had been paid and that we had a Grant Account balance of \$40.00. The Grant Account balance should have been \$140.00, as our Bird Quest sponsorship had not been paid.
3. Under Comments by Commissioners, regarding the vandalized mural in the butterfly garden, the sentence "Administrator Bittner advised that he would look into having the camera reset" was amended to read "Administrator Bittner reset the camera to stop at three locations in the garden and that he and Councilman Murtaugh will request Public Works to install another camera that will focus full time on the entire garden once the weather warms".

Commissioner Sills moved to accept the minutes as amended. Commissioner Horn seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Sills reported, as noted above, that the month of January began with a grant balance of \$140.00. On January 20th, Gloucester County Nature Club's Bird Quest Sponsorship of \$100.00 was paid, leaving a balance of \$40.00 in the Grant Account. The initial budget balance was \$249.37, representing 26.25 % of the prior year's budget. On January 21st, an expenditure of \$17.00 was deducted for a name plate and the balance remaining is \$232.37.

No DEP Hazardous Discharge Notices were received.

Old Business:

The revised bylaws were discussed. Article VI – Order of Business was reviewed and changed to place the Treasurer's Report and the Corresponding Secretary's Report at the beginning of the meeting. The bylaws were amended to reflect the following sequence of business at a regular meeting:

1. Call to order
2. Sunshine law announcement
3. Roll call
4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Corresponding Secretary's Report
7. Old business
8. Report of officers and committees

9. New business
10. Public comments
11. Adjournment

Commissioner Elton moved to adopt the bylaws as amended. Commissioner Horn seconded and the bylaws were unanimously approved at this meeting on February 3, 2010.

A draft of the Annual Report covering all activities of the Environmental Commission in 2009 was discussed. Before finalizing, Chairperson Lovell advised that she and Commissioner Horn were in the process of computing volunteer hours for insertion in the report. Commissioner Horn advised that from this point forward, she planned to calculate volunteer hours on a monthly basis and include this figure in the report that she prepares for the second meeting of Council each month.

Commissioner Horn moved to submit the 2009 Annual Report to Council. Commissioner Elton seconded; motion carried.

Monarch Watch – Monarch Waystation Certification – Chairperson Lovell reported we need three additional plants to qualify. She advised that costs at this point total \$64.80, covering a \$15.00 certification fee and \$24.90 each for two signs. She asked Commissioners if they wished to apply for certification, and it was decided to table this matter until next month when the cost of additional plants can be included.

Public Awareness & Educational Projects for 2010

Women's Club Gardening Presentation/Luncheon at 12:00 noon on March 13th at Grabbe's – Chairperson Lovell reported that she and Commissioner Horn were speaking and she asked if any other Commissioners would like to help in presenting the program. Commissioners Flowers and Elton volunteered. Potential topics were discussed and included conservation, gardening tips, composting, rain barrels and a possible power point presentation. The Commissioners decided to meet on February 24th at 7:30 p.m. at Commissioner Sills' house to fine-tune their plans.

Storm Water Management & Rain Garden Lectures – Commissioners discussed plans for the first of three lectures, required by Rutgers' Rain Garden Grant award. Chairperson Lovell reported that Rutgers will supply the needed materials. Water conservation was the chosen topic and the date, time and place decided upon were Thursday, April 22nd, at 7:00 p.m. at Parkview School library. Commissioner Horn advised that she would fill out the necessary form requesting the library for that evening. Other details discussed included equipment needs, length of presentation, our need to advertise and to present our plans beforehand to Council. Chairperson Lovell reported that she will contact Mary Cummings at Rutgers Cooperative Extension for the lecture material, in order for us to see what Rutgers is providing and to proceed from there.

WWW.STATE.N.J.US/DEP is recommended for access to DEP telephone numbers.

Committee Reports:

IT/PR – Commissioner Flowers discussed web site development and web hosting. She advised that even an economical plan would cost \$10.00 per month or \$120.00 per year. Because she felt the Commission could use \$120.00 to better advantage, she suggested that we get a face book page and blog for free. Commissioner Horn made a motion that we move ahead in setting up face book and blog site. Commissioner Sills seconded; motion carried.

Education/Community Outreach – Commissioner Elton reported he will be meeting in the near future with Commissioner Callaghan regarding materials on hand and past activities.

Grants – Commissioner Horn reported she ordered 300 native plant seed packets at a cost of \$25.00 from

America the Beautiful Fund for our own use or to be given away at various activities.

Training:

ANJEC: Clean Energy Community Partners Training Programs:

2/09/10 - 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. - Cherry Hill

2/16/10 - 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Ocean City

2/17/10 – 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Live Webnar Training

3/20/10 – TBA – Monmouth Co.E

ANJEC: Training to Protect Natural Resources

Monday – 3/08/10 – Vineland Ramada Inn, Route 55 Exit 32A – 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday – 3/13/10 – Geraldine Dodge Foundation, Morristown – 9:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Saturday – 3/20/10 – Lawrence Nature Center, Lawrenceville 9:00 – 12:30 p.m.

ANJEC training programs are free under ANJEC Workshop Plan

Check anjec.org for latest training and event information

Rutgers: New Jersey Watershed Steward

Tuesday – 3/02/10 – Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. Cost: \$25.00

New Business:

Gloucester County Clean Communities Grant – Earth Day – Saturday, April 17, 2010 – 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - East Greenwich Township. (Rain date: 4/24/10) Chairperson Lovell reported the 8:00 – 2:00 time frame would be checked, as 2:00 p.m. is longer than previous years. Ten volunteers must participate to earn the \$500 Clean Communities Grant funds.

Commissioner Sills stated that Public Works Manager, Donna Domico, indicated that she wanted to do a community clean-up on April 17th also. Because the Commission must participate in the County's Clean Communities Day on April 17th to earn the \$500 grant, it was suggested that we ask Donna if the Commission could do a clean-up of the town's parks on April 10th or 11th. Commissioner Sills advised she would e-mail Donna for her thoughts in this matter.

Communications:

ANJEC: Power Tools CD - Strategies for selling Energy Conservation

ANJEC: Smart Growth Planning Assistance Grants 2010 – Application deadline – 3/31/10

ANJEC: Updated Resource Papers – Protecting our Streams – 2009

Major State Programs Affecting Land Use – 2009

DEP: Draft Air Quality Permit – Sunoco Eagle Point Refinery dated 1/14/10 (The question was raised if this is a draft, would the DEP be sending another one. Chairperson Lovell advised she would ask Commissioner Sautter for clarification.)

NJ Conservation Foundation: Land Conservation Rally – Marth 20th, Montclair State Univ.

Pleasant Run Nursery – 2010 Catalogue

New Jersey Clean Energy Community Partners Meeting at Rutgers' Eco Complex on January 29, 2010 - Chairperson Lovell and Commissioners Horn, Callaghan and Sills attended. Commissioner Horn explained how the Community Partners initiative, through a variety of energy saving projects, offers New Jersey municipalities an opportunity to gain Sustainable Jersey points and also to qualify for monetary incentives when they refer their residents to one of the designated New Jersey Clean Energy programs. The monetary incentives vary, depending on the project, with the lowest being \$200 and the highest \$1,000.00. The following are examples of some of the incentive projects:

1. One Green New Jersey Resource Team event would earn a \$200 community incentive grant. The Green New Jersey Resource Team is a grassroots program to educate consumers about reducing energy use and protecting the environment, starting with energy efficient lighting. Project Porchlight, is a sample of such a grassroots program. They engage volunteers to distribute CFLs door to door and at events.
2. The refrigerator/freezer recycle program - for 20 units referred, a \$300 community incentive grant would be awarded.
3. Referrals from 100 residents to have an energy audit of their home would earn an \$800 grant. The home audit, valued at \$300 would cost the homeowner \$125, but the program gives the homeowner other financial incentives to get the work done.

Commissioners discussed these programs and felt they would like to participate in some of the Community Partners Initiatives.

Commissioner Flowers moved to ask Council for permission to pursue energy programs in the Community. Commissioner Callaghan seconded; motion carried.

Comments by Commissioners:

Commissioner Flowers reported she is still collecting Christmas and other greeting cards to be sent to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The cards will be forwarded sometime after Valentines's Day.

Commissioner Sills reported she seeded 50 mini pots with corn flower seeds.

Commissioner Sills also noted she reported at last month's meeting that she planned to call Mr. Bittner, Administrator, regarding the Boundry Lane Pathway porposal. She did not have an opportunity to do so, but she advised she will be contacting him regarding this project.

The next meeting of the Environmental Commission is scheduled to be held on March 3, 2010.

Commissioner Sills moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:10. Commissioner Flowers seconded; motion carried.

Submitted by: M. Callaghan
Recording Secretary
February 3, 2010