

Matawan Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2018

The regular meeting of the Matawan Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:03pm on April 10, 2018 by Commission Chairman Daniel Wieczorek.

I. Meeting Attendance

a. Present

Commission Members

Daniel Wieczorek (chair)
Deana Gunn (Council Chair)
Meredith Comi
Jim Tobias
Sharen LaPorta
Larry McGee
Ginny Sanzo
Anthony Washington

Associate Members

Michele Devanny
Adam Fernandez

b. Absent

Malini Guha
Ken Ramsey

c. Guests

Debbie Gries
Paul Rinear
Amy Kaban

II. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the March 13, 2018 Meeting approved as submitted

III. Guest Speaker – Deborah Gries – Princeton School District Green Teams

- Shared with the commission how the concept of “School Gardens” in the Princeton School district began after 9/11
- After much success with one school, the concept grew to other schools and now 4 schools in the district have fully operational school gardens
- Initially the project was volunteer based and funded by fundraising campaigns, but now, due to its success, is now a staffed 501c3 called “The Princeton School Gardens Cooperative”
- For more information on this program, please visit their website: www.psgcoop.org

IV. Member and Guest Reports on Affiliate Organizations

a. Aberdeen Environmental Advisory Board (Dan)

- i. Clean Ocean Action (COA) Beach Sweeps, Saturday, April 21st, 9:00am to 12:00 – Fisherman’s Parking Lot at Cliffwood Beach (967 Ocean Blvd, Aberdeen Twp, across from roller rink at Veteran’s Memorial Park)
- ii. Discussion of COA’s call to all towns to pass a resolution opposing offshore drilling and any other offshore oil and gas activities
- iii. Possible tour at Freneau Woods to learn how to identify trees
- iv. Aberdeen’s Shade Tree Commission in working on their Forestry Plan

b. Matawan Shade Tree (Larry)

- i. A tree will be planted for Arbor Day, Matawan DPW assisting

c. Planning Board (Sharon)

- i. Nothing to report that impacts the Matawan Environmental Commission

d. Bayshore Regional Watershed Council (Meredith)

- i. Meredith will be attending the meeting on Thursday, 4/12
 - ii. An osprey's nest was moved from Natco Lake to another location
- e. Monmouth County Environmental Council (pending)
 - i. Freehold is acquiring property for the Henry Hudson Trail
- f. Matawan Town Council (Deana)
 - i. No report for this meeting

V. Reports on Special Events/Meetings Attended

- a. Henry Hudson Trail Meeting
 - i. A meeting was held with representatives of the Matawan Environmental Commission, Monmouth County Parks System, New Jersey Transit and Matawan and Aberdeen leadership to discuss 2 possible trail connections and development
 - 1. One potential piece to connect through Matawan by the old rail trestle – consideration of an “Enhanced Trail” for assisting access to NJ Transit with lighting, bike path, etc.
 - 2. The other potential piece to connect to the Keyport segment
 - ii. Mindful consideration to be given to the extent of time that this project would take to be fully conceptualized, planned and developed
- b. Joint MEC-AEAB meeting with Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District
 - i. Held with Adam Nasr, the Operations and Facilities Manager for the school district
 - ii. Discussion of continuous updates to school facilities HVAC systems for maximum energy efficiency
 - iii. Discussion of solar energy and the debate of lease vs. purchase
 - iv. Review of the viability of participating in “Sustainable Jersey for Schools”; to establish a Green Team at individual schools (especially Ravine Drive for Matawan) www.sustainablejerseyschools.com
 - v. Recycling initiative at the schools – to obtain bins for schools to recycle and coordinate the proper pick-up and disposition of recyclables
- c. STAND Central NJ
 - i. Jim Tobias attended their April meeting on ‘A Renewable Energy Future for NJ’ – robust discussions on energy conservation in NJ, pipeline battles, and updates on current bills in the legislature

VI. Progress Reports on Active Projects

- a. Spring Cleanup (Meredith & Anthony)
 - i. Partnered with NY/NJ Baykeeper and Monmouth County Clean Communities
 - ii. Saturday, April 14th, 9-11am – the finalization of these details a primary focus of this month's meeting
- b. Henry Hudson Trail – (Dan)
 - i. See above ‘Henry Hudson Trail Meeting’
- c. Lefferts Waterfront Cleanup/Expansion/Nature Trail
 - i. Interested in doing a study on increasing water access for fishing, etc. as a future project
 - ii. Lake Lefferts is part of the focus area of the 4/14/18 Spring Clean-Up
- d. Lefferts Kayak Tours – (pending)
 - i. Matawan Recreation Department and NY/NJ Baykeeper will be running kayak tours on Lake Lefferts this season. Dates TBA
- e. Signs Marking our Watershed (pending)
 - i. No report this meeting
- f. Community Garden (Dan, Jim, Larry & Anthony)
 - i. Clarified and unified the Commission's definition of Community Garden as a ‘parcel of land that is gardened collectively by a group of people’

- ii. Discussion of possible locations (review Monmouth County GIS), potential of meeting with town planner, the idea of multiple small community gardens throughout Matawan, especially able to be within walking distance for site specific volunteers
- iii. Someone attend Marlboro Shade Tree to learn about their community garden
- iv. Discussion of viability of a butterfly garden
- g. Rain Garden (Anthony & Larry)
 - i. Bioswale discussion – in lieu of doing a rain garden, which posed multiple challenges. Bioswale could be more feasible, especially for areas in need, such as Terhune Park
- h. Tree City USA (Larry)
 - i. Tree being planted for Arbor Day

VII. New Business

- a. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) – the Commission needs to produce a Natural Resources Inventory in order to enable info share with town planning, etc. – Consultation with ANJEC necessary on properly completing this
- b. Discussion of disposed items along Henry Hudson Trail where drilling has been occurring
- c. Discussion of land disturbance along the Henry Hudson Trail by Clinton and Stillwell streets, which impacts storm drainage and properties in its vicinity. There should be a berm there and the Commission may need to have a discussion with the county engineer who is in charge of the project

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm by Daniel Wiczorek. The next general meeting will be at 7:00pm on May 8, 2018, at the Matawan Municipal Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Sanzo