

Matawan Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2018

The regular meeting of the Matawan Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:03pm on May 8, 2018 by Commission Chairman Daniel Wieczorek.

I. Meeting Attendance (16)

a. Present

Commission Members

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

Associate Members

Adam Fernandez
Malini Guha

b. Absent

Sharen LaPorta
Meredith Comi

Michele Devanny
Ken Ramsey

c. Guests

Yvette Maria Reyes
Don Gordon
Pat Noble
Elizabeth Szoc

Janine Bland
Julianna Bland
Diane Doolittle
Paul Rinear

II. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the April 10, 2018 Meeting approved as submitted

III. Guest Speakers:

a. Elizabeth Szoc - First Presbyterian Church, Matawan - Community Garden

- Started their Community Garden Spring, 2017
- Monmouth County Food Pantry provided all of the plants used and guided the “how to” of plating and layout
- Items grown: tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, peppers, basil, strawberries, zucchini
- In ground planting, not raised beds
- Composting was attempted, but there was animal interference
- Food that was grown was donated to either the food pantry or to church members
- No one was assigned plots, only the Szocs worked the garden
- This year the size is doubled over last year (in an attempt to expand sun exposure to the plants) and the food mostly goes to the food pantry
- Uncertain if the church community would consider opening the garden to participation with other organizations
- Church meetings are the 4th Monday of each month at the church

b. Julianna Bland - Ambassador Girl Scout - Gold Award Project

- Due to concerns of the declining bee population, Julianna would like to build a community garden or bee friendly garden to help sustain the population of bees
- Needs to have an educational component, such as workshops with the library and schools to integrate the importance of the bee population in terms of food and environmental impacts, as well as how members of the community can integrate bee friendly plants in their own private yards
- Willing to consider expanding the concept into that of a full pollinator garden to include butterflies
- The size of the garden would depend upon the amount of space available
- Julianna needs to have this done within the next year
- Julianna is in need of an advisor (hopefully from the Matawan Environmental Commission) to assist with the project
- Chairman Dan Wieczorek requested a plan, a budget and a list of top 5 ideal locations from Julianna so that we could move forward with assisting
- Councilwoman Deana Gunn will assist as well, to investigate if any existing parks could accept this type of garden (*ie* Penniplede Park on Jackson Street, or along the Henry Hudson Trail) Consultation with the Parks/Recreations Department would be necessary

IV. Member and Guest Reports on Affiliate Organizations

a. Aberdeen Environmental Advisory Board (Dan)

i. Pat Noble reported and reviewed their events:

1. Arbor day tree planting
2. Beach clean-up (over 140 people attended); mostly glass fragments were picked up, not many plastics
3. Medication drives
4. Monmouth county paper shredding which was well attended
5. Recycling discussion - recycling is up 93%, working on getting the schools recycling percentage up as well, since they are currently behind; Aberdeen gave away recycling bins to residents (as part of recycling grants received) more recycling cans are needed as residents were highly interested
6. 335 trees for 3rd graders were given away in Aberdeen for Arbor Day

b. Matawan Shade Tree (Larry)

i. Update on Arbor Day tree planting:

1. 50 red maples were available, they gave out 25
2. It was noted that the Boy Scouts might be able to take some for their projects

c. Planning Board (Sharon)

i. No Report

d. Bayshore Regional Watershed Council (Meredith)

i. No Report

- e. Monmouth County Environmental Council (pending)
 - i. No Report
- f. Matawan Town Council (Deana)
 - i. Attended Matawan Arbor Day and Aberdeen Arbor Day
 - ii. April 14th Matawan Spring Clean-Up was a huge success and gave the Commission good exposure in the community (over 50 people attended and all 100 trees from the Sandy Recovery project were given away)
 - iii. Attended a meeting to assess the solar situation in Matawan – panels are going up June or July for Borough Hall, August will be the police station and water plant (carports will be constructed in order to support the panels) and upon completion of the project, a monitor will be placed in Borough Hall to view cost savings and additional data
 - iv. Updated the Commission on the kayak tours on Lake Lefferts with Joe Reynolds of the Bayshore Regional Watershed Council
 - v. The Matawan Memorial Day Parade is Sunday, May 27th
 - vi. June 9th is the Fishing Derby for kids at Lake Lefferts
 - vii. The Matawan Environmental Commission is in need of a logo, especially for banners and documents/letterhead

V. Reports on Special Events/Meetings Attended

- a. Shade Tree Arbor Day Event (Larry)
 - i. See report above
- b. MEC Spring Cleanup (Meredith)
 - i. No Report – see above for brief report from Deana Gunn

VI. Progress Reports on Active Projects

- a. Lefferts Waterfront Cleanup/Expansion/Nature Trail
 - i. No official report
 - ii. Discussion on the viability of increasing water access for fishing, between the boat launch and the dock; won't be able to do for this year's fishing derby, but possibly for next year
- b. Lefferts Kayak Tours – (Happening!)
 - i. Matawan Recreation Department and NY/NJ Baykeeper will be running free, 1 hour kayak tours on Lake Lefferts this season. They will be led by Joe Reynolds. (see last page)
 - ii. 2 Dates with 4 Time slots each day:
 - 1. Saturday, July 21st AND Saturday August 25th
 - a. 9am-10am
 - b. 11am-12pm
 - c. 1pm-2pm
 - d. 3pm-4pm

- c. Signs Marking our Watershed (Meredith)
 - i. No report
- d. Community Garden (Dan, Jim, Larry & Anthony)
 - i. See above presentation from Guest Elizabeth Szoc from the First Presbyterian Church
- e. Rain Garden/Bioswale (Anthony & Larry)
 - i. No report
- f. Tree City USA (Larry)
 - i. One requirement has been met via Mayoral Proclamation for Arbor Day
 - ii. Next meeting will determine where current standings are
- g. Sustainable Jersey for Schools – Green Team – School Garden (pending)
 - i. No official report
 - ii. Per Pat Noble from Aberdeen – schools have recycling cans, but issues remain with proper disposal of the recyclables collected – there is a new contractor for the upcoming year and the recycling policies will be more organized and better processed
- h. Solar Power for Matawan Borough and School System (pending)
 - i. See above report from Deana Gunn
 - ii. Per Anthony Washington – discussion on using parking lots for solar panels, but the cost factors are high, as structures need to be built in the parking lot (*ie* carports) in order for the solar panels to be mounted
- i. Natural Resource Inventory (Adam)
 - i. Needs to find an example from someplace more local (others he found were from various other areas in the country) to see how in depth it needs to be; also depends upon what data is available for our area
 - ii. Paul Rinear from the Aberdeen Environmental Advisory Board shared that Aberdeen has theirs online
 - iii. It was suggested to reach out to ANJEC for assistance as well
 - iv. The Natural Resource Inventory is needed for the Master Plan and should be available to the Planning Board so that the Commission can have access to planning board and zoning board plans; it also assists in access to grants, collection of green team points, etc.
 - v. An inquiry was made to see if there is an old NRI from the previous Matawan Environmental Commission; this is yet to be determined
 - vi. There is an assumed cost of approximately \$10,000.00 for complete the NRI in its entirety

VII. New Business

a. Upcoming Meetings and Project Suggestions

- i. MAEC (Jim Tobias): Mini Golf at the high school soft ball field, plus a dance and band – library, schools, police department (June 3) (See Flyer at end of minutes!)
- ii. Anthony, Dan and Jim will head up the creation of a hole for the mini golf

VIII. Open Floor

a. Yvette Reyes:

- i. Point Pleasant Beach has passed a resolution to ban single use plastic bags in the town – thoughts of working towards the same goal in Matawan
- ii. Proposed the idea of a “Mobile Garten” – an art garden made of recycled materials ... and made mobile to go to different communities and schools to promote awareness of the consumption of and adverse effects of single use plastics – this would be with the purpose of educating businesses and consumers
- iii. Consider a discussion with the Chamber of Commerce to work with Matawan businesses (esp. restaurants and shops) to encourage the riddance of single use plastics
- iv. Research other towns that have successfully changed their ordinances and see how businesses bought into it, challenges faced, what worked, what didn’t

b. Pat Noble:

- i. Bridge on Little Street – a significant amount of recyclable trash is collected on the ground below the bridge and would like to see that cleaned up
- ii. Challenge is gaining access to the area because it is bordered by residential private property, and the ground is quite steep
- iii. Considered accessibility via boat
- iv. Determined that the Commission would check the GIS to see if it is town property where the trash is accumulated and if so, perhaps the DPW could clean it up if its public property

c. Paul Rinear:

- i. May 20th - Riverside Gardens Clean-up 9am-12pm, with Bayshore Regional Watershed Council (Joe Reynolds is the chair)

d. Anthony Washington:

- i. Campaign for “covering your trash/recycles” as a significant portion of street litter tends to come from trash/recycles that blow out of uncovered trash cans that are out on the curb awaiting pick up; what can we do to get some mass communication and education out to people (*ie* on the town calendar, via social media) and to get some statistics behind the environmental impact of uncovered trash/recycling cans
- ii. Possibility of ticketing people with overflowing/uncovered cans?

IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm by Daniel Wiczorek. The next general meeting will be at 7:00pm on June 12, 2018, at the Matawan Municipal Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Sanzo

Borough of **MATAWAN** *New Jersey*



Guided Kayak Tours on Lake Lefferts

Led by Mr. Joe Reynolds

2 Tour Dates Available:

Saturday, July 21st & Saturday, August 25th

4 Tour Time Slots per Tour Day:

9AM-10AM, 11AM-12PM, 1 PM-2PM, 3PM-4PM

Tours are Free and 1 hour in Duration



Joe Reynolds is a local naturalist, explorer, writer, Photographer, and conservationist. He specializes in Estuarine ecology and coastal biology of the mid- Atlantic. Joe attended Bard College graduating with a M.S. in Environmental Science and since then has worked in environmental education and has guided numerous people on kayak tours along the Jersey Shore and around the New York Harbor.





MAEF Mini-Golf Event

Call for Teams!

The Matawan Aberdeen Educational Foundation (MAEF) is having its Mini-Golf event again, on June 3, 2018, at the Matawan Regional High School. Just like last year, the holes will be designed and built by teams from the schools and community organizations.

Here's last year's event. This June we'll have more teams and longer hours. **More FUN!**



We're looking for teams & leaders

Your class, club, or organization will design and build your hole, using whatever ideas you come up with. MAEF and local businesses will provide some donated supplies and materials. We'll help you every step of the way, starting with an in-person visit to answer questions and get the ball rolling, if you want.

Can't form a team? There are many other ways you can help:

- What's in the garage? Donate wood, paint, craft supplies; whatever you've got may inspire a team!
- Handy? Work with teams on their designs!
- Media skills? Help with publicity!
- The organized type? Set up and manage the course!

The Final Pitch

- **Fun.** Everyone loves mini-golf!
- A community-building event
- Publicity for your group or club
- Help our STEAM students and your group join the inspiring "Maker Culture" that will revive our nation's manufacturing base

Contact Jim Tobias at 908.907.2387 jtglidepath@gmail.com



MAEF Mini-Golf Team Guidance

For more info contact Jim Tobias
jtglidepath@gmail.com 908.907.2387

Thanks again for signing up to lead a do-it-yourself team for the June 3, 2018 Mini-Golf event! Here's some information about how to design and build a hole so everything will fit together nicely for the event and our players.

Rules (as few as possible!)

Your hole can be as big as you want, as long as you don't use up the whole field. It can be made of anything you want, as long as it's a safe material and a safe construction. It can be shaped or operate any way you want, as long as players have fun.

1. **No Digging.** We want to leave the field as nice as we got it. So, no big holes. You can stick things into the ground, up to 1/2 inch in diameter.
2. **Nothing Messy or Dangerous.** Nothing that will damage the field or pose a risk to players: no fire, chemicals, sharp points or edges (watch out for exposed staples, nails, etc.).
3. **Bring Your Own Electricity.** We may not have an outdoor power outlet. If you have lights or a mechanism, power them safely.
4. **Tapping, Not Slamming.** Your hole should be playable with soft, even strokes. We don't want players using a lot of force -- no balls and clubs flying around.
5. **Make It Rugged.** Accidents happen -- people may step on part of your hole, or it may rain. We will have supplies for simple repairs, but the best solution is for the original design to survive common accidents.
6. **Make It Storable and Transportable.** See 'Setup' below.
7. **Make It Environmentally Friendly.** Can you reduce, reuse, recycle? What happens to the hole after June 3? See below for Awards.

Document Your Design

We need to see your design in advance; see our **Schedule** below. It should show your ideas in photos, sketches, text -- however you want. It doesn't have to be fancy. Why? First, we will look it over for safety. Second, if you need any help with materials or building, we need something to show our helpers. Third, we need to figure out how to fit your mini-golf hole into the entire course lay-out. You might want to give your mini-golf hole a name.

Don't worry – we will not show your design to anyone else!

Details

Cup. You can build the cup – where you hit the ball into – into your hole however you want. If this isn't part of your design, we can provide one. Because we can't dig holes for them, they will be a ring secured to the ground. The goal for the player is to tap the ball so it enters and stays in the ring, which is about 8 inches in diameter. In your design, indicate where the ring goes.

Tee. This is where players place the ball to keep it steady while they get ready to hit it. As long as it keeps the ball in one place, your design can be anything you want. It needs to be part of your design because we can't count on the grass being perfect for the ball moving from the grass onto the start of your hole.

Border. If you want to build a border around your hole you may, but it's not required.

Location. If you want your hole to be in a specific place in the field, let us know.

Materials. Holes should be made of free and recycled materials as much as possible. If we can gather enough sponsors, each hole will have a small budget for anything you have to buy. If you can get us a lead for a sponsor, great! Let us know and we'll do the leg work.

Testing

It's really important to test your hole. Every time you try it, you will learn something. When a new person tries it, you will learn a lot. You may want to change it after testing, so make sure you test early. If your hole has separate parts, you should test them separately if you can, then test the whole thing together. (That's how engineers do it!)

Here are some of the things to look for and think about:

- Is it easy to play but challenging enough? For just you, or for every player who might show up (young, old, people who have vision problems, etc.)?
- Does the ball travel properly? If you're using the grass as your surface, players will have to adjust. But if you're using plywood or cardboard, make sure the ball moves as it should. Balls shouldn't get stuck anywhere that would make it hard for a player to continue. Be sure that when you install the hole in the field, the design will still work correctly.
- Is the design reliable? Even if it has surprises, it should work pretty much the same way every time.
- Are all parts stable? An obstacle that's heavy enough can just be put in place. Other obstacles or parts that might get out of position should have one or more 1/4 inch holes at grass level so we can stake them down.
- Does it take a reasonable amount of time to play? If a family of 4 players can complete other holes in 3 minutes, but one hole takes 5 minutes, the course will get backed up. Keep it snappy if you can.

Awards

We will be **sharing the proceeds** with the teams that make the 3 holes voted to be:

- Most Fun
- Most Creative
- Most Environmentally Friendly

We don't know how big the prizes will be, because we don't know how many people will come to play, so **the more people you invite, the bigger the prizes will be.** Players will vote after they complete the course.

We will tally the votes and announce the winning teams at the end of the event, and post the team names on Facebook.

Schedule

- **April 16 - May 10 Team Growth and Q&A.** This is our sign-up period and conversation about your team's ideas.
- **May 11 Check-in.** Send us a note to say your team is organized and working. Include your most recent design and all info about your hole that's solid.
- **May 24 10-Day Countdown Begin.** Send us a note with your final design and building status.

The Big Day - June 3rd! Setup (And Cleanup)

Setup will begin at 10 AM. To keep things simple, we're hoping each team can store its hole in advance, and transport it to the High School softball field. **If you need help with any of that, please let us know ASAP.** We will have limited ability to store holes on site in advance.

We need someone on the team to make sure the hole is properly set up, that the cup location is correct, and that it plays the way you want -- final testing.

No one has to be at the field throughout the day, but we're glad to have you with us, especially if you can volunteer to help us make the event run smoothly. Let us know in advance when you can volunteer and we'll find a fun job for you to do.

At the end of the event, **6 PM, everything needs to be taken down quickly and cleanly.** Teams should assign someone to take down their hole and remove it from the field. We will have very limited trash facilities, and teams cannot leave any part of their hole on the field, in the parking lot, etc.

Thank you for participating! MAEF Mini-Golf is gonna be a blast!