

Matawan Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes June 12, 2018

The regular meeting of the Matawan Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:06pm on June 12, 2018 by Commission Chairman Daniel Wieczorek.

I. Meeting Attendance (11)

a. Present

Commission Members

Daniel Wieczorek (chair)
Sharen LaPorta
Jim Tobias
Larry McGee
Ginny Sanzo
Meredith Comi

Associate Members

Adam Fernandez
Michele Devanny

b. Absent

Deana Gunn (Council Chair)
Anthony Washington

Malini Guha
Ken Ramsey

c. Guests

Arlan Feiles
Hans Kernasa

Dayna Ramsay

II. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the May 8, 2018 Meeting approved as submitted

III. Guest Speakers:

None

IV. Member and Guest Reports on Affiliate Organizations

a. Aberdeen Environmental Advisory Board (Dan)

- i. Aberdeen coordinated a successful Arbor Day poetry contest, which included Ravine Drive School
- ii. Discussion of Cliffwood cleanups
- iii. Aberdeen Environmental Advisory Board has a strong social media presence on both Facebook and Instagram

b. Matawan Shade Tree (Larry)

- i. Met with Art from Garden State to get an estimate on tree trimming etc along Lake Lefferts
- ii. Vegetation killer has been applied in Terhune Park and along Lake Matawan to kill weeds. It is not known who applied the weed killer. Shrubs have been removed Terhune Park as well

c. Planning Board (Sharon)

- i. Discussion of train station development and upcoming large scale project

d. Bayshore Regional Watershed Council (Meredith)

- i. Update on the pipeline, Seine the Bay and Horseshoe Crab Monitoring

- e. Monmouth County Environmental Council (pending)
 - i. No Report
- f. Matawan Town Council (Deana)
 - i. No Report

V. Reports on Special Events/Meetings Attended

- a. Fishing Derby June 9th at Lake Lefferts
 - i. Meredith –there was a large turnout at this event; many children were present and numerous individuals were highly interested in what Baykeeper and the Commission are doing for the town
 - ii. Baykeeper had a table at the event (was the only table present) and it received much traffic – the Commission should consider having a table at next year’s fishing derby
- b. MAEF Mini Golf
 - i. Jim – was held on June 3rd - various organizations built a hole and hole builders were encouraged to use recycled materials for their creative constructions
 - ii. Prizes were given for Most Fun, Most Creative and Most Environmentally Friendly
 - iii. Pictures are available on the MAEF website
 - iv. The Commission did not build a hole for this year’s event, however fully intends to participate in next year’s
- c. MEC Spring Cleanup
 - i. Meredith – updates: good turnout and well received, residents want to do more cleanups, the event was easy to organize and execute; did need to field questions as to why we need to do cleanups when the Borough has a DPW

VI. Progress Reports on Active Projects

- a. Lefferts Waterfront Cleanup/Expansion/Nature Trail
 - i. Expansion discussion
 - ii. Clean up needed – do we push for the DPW to do a shoreline cleanup? Especially for before the kayak tours! Needs to be professionally done, as there are hazardous conditions for a community clean-up; possibly garner support from local businesses?
- 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.
 - 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
 - iii. Baykeeper might add some more tours since there has been so much interest

- c. Signs Marking our Watershed (Meredith)
 - i. General Commission Discussion - consider having businesses sponsor watershed signs? Especially businesses that stop using single use plastics! Have art/metal shop classes at the high school build these signs/have a sign contest? Could also be Eagle projects?
- d. Community Garden (Dan, Jim, Larry & Anthony)
 - i. Continued examination of any municipal property that might be available
 - 1. Small portion behind Aby's Restaurant where LEI sometimes parks their vehicles
 - 2. Small portion by the water treatment plant
- e. Rain Garden/Bioswale (Anthony, Larry, Meredith)
 - i. Asbury Park has an excellently signed Rain Garden by their police department, approx. 50 feet long by 20 feet wide (Asbury Park also has a highly functioning pollinator garden) (We might be able to do a scaled down version of that in Terhune.
 - ii. Keyport has Rain Gardens along the water
 - iii. Consideration of doing a scaled down version of Asbury Park's Rain Garden in Terhune Park, which is actually a nature and plant preserve, possibly to be integrated with the proposed pollinator garden project (see May, 2018 meeting minutes)
 - iv. Rutgers has schematics and plans on their website for rain gardens
 - v. Everyone was encouraged to either go to Asbury Park to view their Rain Garden and Pollinator Garden, or research photos online. Also encouraged to check out Joe Harvard's ArtGarten (sculpture garden)
- f. Tree City USA (Larry)
 - i. Matawan's Tree City USA application should be finalized at the next Shade Tree Meeting. By September, Matawan should be a Tree City USA town!
- g. Sustainable Jersey for Schools – Green Team – School Garden (pending)
 - i. Upcoming meeting – will report at next Commission meeting
- h. Solar Power for Matawan Borough and School System (pending)
 - i. Matawan Borough has signed a deal for solar power
 - ii. School system is still pending – the schools have a large amount of flat roof space which is perfect for solar panel installation
 - iii. Continued discussion of purchase vs. leasing
- i. Natural Resource Inventory (Adam)
 - i. Adam will submit an Open Public Records Request for any old NRI's from previous Matawan Environmental Commissions or from the state

VII. New Business

- a. Upcoming Meetings and Project Suggestions
 - i. Upcoming Sustainable Jersey for Schools meeting

VIII. Open Floor (General Discussions)

- Discussion on the elimination of single use plastics; discussion of improving the efforts of Matawan businesses recycling
- General concerns expressed inquiring on how is it that so much garbage still ends up on the beaches/in the waterways
- Large amounts of litter in town and there doesn't seem to be any consequence or recourse
- Focus on having town-issued covered trash/recycling receptacles, such as in Aberdeen and Hazlet
- The new Matawan Recycling Center - what they will be accepting? Recommendation of contacting Matawan's Recycling Coordinator for more information
- Discussion of the Aberdeen Recycling Center
- Lake Matawan is naturally highly acidic, hence its color and lack of fish
- What is the current status of Matawan's Clean Communities Funds?
- Can we coordinate a clean-up of the perimeter of Lake Lefferts from illegal dumping (ie of bicycles, etc)?
- Concerns expressed regarding the herbicide that will be applied to Lake Lefferts to kill the seaweed that grows in there; this has an indirect impact on the fish life in the lake ... doesn't kill the fish, but kills the food that the young fish need to eat
- Matawan water treatment plant – would it be possible for it be taken over by an organization such as American Water, then the borough doesn't have to waste resources and manpower on operating the plant
- Lake Matawan and Lake Lefferts dams are in a state of disrepair – discussion on the effects and possible solutions (ie, let dams crumble (esp Lake Matawan) and turn areas into natural, self-maintaining estuaries? – the drawback is that tidal water can bring in litter and will have to be kept clean --- example would be estuaries in Cliffwood – see also NOAA Restoration of Spillways for dam and spillway removal
- Why do the kayak rentals cost so much? And where does the money go? Would it be possible to have a discounted rate for Matawan residents? Should we assemble a proposal for this?
- Recycling trucks have been dumping recycling water into the street from the collection truck – they pull over and dump onto resident grass... they are supposed to be legally dumped in the street as long as it goes to storm water (as much of the water collects from rain collecting in the recycling bins)
- Strong Waterfront Clean-up Push (Dan and Sharen)

IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm by Daniel Wiczorek. The next general meeting will be at 7:00pm on July 10, 2018, at the Matawan Municipal Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Sanzo