

Matawan Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes June 9, 2020

The regular meeting of the Matawan Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:15pm on June 9, 2020 by Commission Chair Daniel Wieczorek.

I. Meeting Attendance

a. Present

Commission Members

Daniel Wieczorek (chair)

Ginny Sanzo

Meredith Comi

Malini Guha

Adam Fernandez

Anthony Washington

John Lazar – Council Chair

Associate Members

Diane Doolittle

Michele Devanny

b. Absent

Sharen LaPorta

Dan Carroll

c. Guests

None

II. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting approved - MSP

III. 2019 Annual Report

Progress? None due to pandemic but the following notes will be followed through on – Facebook analytics, agendas and minutes, spring clean up stats and 150 tree giveaway – (black gum, bayberry, beach plum, black walnut, persimmon, cherry)

IV. Progress Reports on 2020 Priority Projects

a. Sustainable Jersey progress updates (deadline for application May 17, 2020)

- Per Sustainable Jersey website:

Application Deadline Changed to Sunday, June 14 – application by Sunday)

“Due to the COVID-19 disruptions in municipal activities, the timeline for certification in 2020 has been adjusted. The initial deadline has been changed from May 17 to June 14. Municipalities that submit by June 14 will be guaranteed two rounds of review on their application to meet the deadline for certification and be recognized at the Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon. If a municipality is not ready to submit its application by June 14, but does apply by July 30, Sustainable Jersey will make every effort to review the application and provide feedback so that additional updates can be submitted by the September resubmission deadline.”

- Dan W. going to work on submitting application by June 14th deadline
- b. Spring Clean up – Due to COVID-19 Gathering Mandates – Clean up postponed to Fall, 2020

V. Reports on Affiliate Organizations

- a. Matawan Town Council (John)
 - Opening Borough Hall Monday June 15, open to public with social distancing and mask requirement - all business returning to normal
 - Town is working on making it easier for restaurants in town to open up for outdoor dining
- b. Planning Board (Sharen)
 - No report

VI. Special Events/Meetings - Upcoming and/or Attended

- a. Sustainable Jersey Webinars
 - 1. 2020 Certification Webinar Recordings can be found at this link for helpful information in moving forward: <https://www.sustainablejersey.com/resources/presentations/webinars/#c3597>
- b. 2020 New Jersey Sustainability Summit
 - 1. The in-person event originally scheduled for June 12, 2020 has been cancelled.
“Instead, four weeks of FREE virtual “Summit-like” content, including online educational sessions, social “happy hours,” and 30 minute talks on a variety of topics were held from April 20 to May 15.”
View recordings and presentations through this link:
<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/resources/presentations/sustainability-summit/>

VII. Open Floor

- Community Garden potential at Borough Hall, between the hall and YMCA section. Already fenced in, evaluating watering feasibility. Conversations ongoing with Matt at Shade Tree. Would just need some organization but has high potential for success. Liability concerns are also being evaluated, re: soil testing and quality of food produced. Possibly a good small grant project? Could demonstrate and validate the community’s interest and desire for a community garden
- Dog park by Freneau park – liability evaluations in discussion as well

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm by Commission Chair Daniel Wiczorek. The next general meeting will be at 7:00pm on July 14, 2020, in the virtual environment – Google Meets.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Sanzo