

Matawan Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2021

*Meeting Re-Scheduled from July 13, 2021*

The regular meeting of the Matawan Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:05pm on July 19, 2021 by Commission Chair Daniel Wieczorek.

I. Meeting Attendance

a. Present

Commission Members

Daniel Wieczorek (chair)

Ginny Sanzo

Adam Fernandez

Meredith Comi

Malini Guha

Anthony Washington

Sharen LaPorta

*John Lazar – Council Chair*

Associate Members

Dan Carroll

b. Absent

Diane Doolittle

Michele Davanny

c. Guests

Nicholas Reeves (Town Council)

Stephanie Buckel (Town Council)

Guy Buckel (Shade Tree)

II. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

a. Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2021 - Approved

III. NRI/Budget Status/Update (AKA ERI – Environmental Resource Inventory)

a. Informative discussion on the value, impact and necessity of an NRI:

- The goal of an NRI is to document natural resources, cultural resources, historical resources, etc within the community, as well as a full overview of land use in town, tree coverage, vegetation, pervious surfaces, wildlife, storm water management
- It can be as broad or in-depth as the town desires
- An NRI helps with land management and development decisions, as evaluations of each development/re-development would assess the impact on the town as whole, not just each individual lot that is being developed/re-developed
- An NRI is not a binding document, rather is a strong resource for making decisions based upon what the town has, versus what it doesn't
- NRI's are quite common throughout the country and every town in Monmouth County has one except for Matawan
- Monmouth County is currently updating their NRI and their updated Master Plan has a section dedicated to all of the NRI's in the county and links to each municipality's NRIs
- An NRI can also be a shared database with other communities and the county
- Additional benefits of an NRI include improved eligibility for Sustainable Jersey Bronze, Silver and Gold medals and improved access to grants funding, the amounts of which increase with the higher levels of medals achieved

- The Environmental Commission is assembling an info sheet for all council members, to assist in clarifying the value of an NRI to Matawan
- An engineering firm/consultant would initially create the NRI, then the town can maintain/update it on its own, without the cost impact of a consultant in the future

IV. Energy Aggregation

- a. In August, 2020, Matawan passed a resolution to participate in Government Energy Aggregation and to participate in the Sustainable Monmouth Alliance (SMA) Government Energy Aggregation Program, with the Borough of Red Bank serving as the Lead Agency
- b. The focus is access to renewable energy for the town and residents
- c. Red Bank and Asbury Park have passed an additional ordinances (“100% Renewable Energy Ordinance”) to transition their communities to 100% renewable energy by 2030
- d. This example below is Asbury Park’s ordinance to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030:
  - 30% from program inception through December 31, 2021
  - 40% from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023
  - 50% from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025
  - 65% from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027
  - 80% from January 1, 2028 through December 31, 2029
  - 100% after December 31, 2029

V. Storm Water Ordinance

- a. There is a state minimum storm water ordinance, however, Matawan has a better model, improved over the state minimum, modeled by the Watershed Institute
- b. Matawan may consider developing our own Water Monitoring Station – “eco-dock”

VI. Single Use Plastics

- a. Discussion of plastic ordinances – specifically single use – NJ law already by 2022, but also points available with Sustainable Jersey to adopt municipality ordinances.
- b. There are re-usable plastic ordinances as well

VII. Community Garden

- a. The Commission is seeking a volunteer to take lead in the Community Garden research and potential development.
- b. A helpful resource and reference is the Marlboro Community Garden –
  - <https://www.marlboro-nj.gov/community-garden>

VIII. Membership and Attendance

- a. August meeting cancelled – next meeting in September
- b. Need to address attendance challenges – encourage pre-meeting attendance communication?
- c. Requirement to attend a minimum of 7 meetings
- d. Evaluation of current terms and expirations
- e. To prepare for the next round of appointments we will post membership availability on our Facebook page

IX. Green Team

- a. The Environmental Commission is already the appointed Green Team for Matawan, and has the ability to grow the Green Team and its abilities
- b. Green Team growth is currently a secondary priority to the development of Matawan’s NRI

X. Reports on Affiliate Organizations

a. Matawan Town Council (John)

- Ordinance for energy aggregation is being workshopped with council

b. Planning Board (Sharen)

- Nothing new to report from Planning/Zoning

c. Additional Reports from Meetings/Newsletters:

- Aberdeen Environmental Advisory Board – no report
- Monmouth County Environmental Council – no report
- ANJEC – no report

XI. Open Floor

- o Idea posed by Dan Carroll: Lake Lefferts clean-up via kayak and canoe, to access debris that is not reachable from the shore

XII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm by Commission Chair Daniel Wiczorek. The next general meeting will be held at 7:00pm on September 14, 2021 – dependent upon health climate, meeting will be in person at Borough Hall unless not possible, then it will be virtual.

IF virtual:

Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/yyu-gnat-azt>