

Matawan Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2022

Meeting Held Virtually

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

The regular meeting of the Matawan Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:06pm on April 12, 2022 by Commission Chair Daniel Wiczorek.

I. Meeting Attendance

a. Present

Commission Members

Daniel Wiczorek (chair)
Ginny Sanzo
Malini Guha
Diane Doolittle

Associate Members

Sharen LaPorta
Michele Devanny

b. Absent

Meredith Comi
Anthony Washington
Adam Fernandez
Charles Ross – Council Chair

Dan Carroll
Charles Wiczorek

c. Guests

Jess Sinkhorn – Fulfill Food Pantry

II. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

a. Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2022 – Approved

III. Guest Speaker/ Community Garden Roundtable Discussion with Jess Sinkhorn of Fulfill Food Bank in Neptune

- How to begin and sustain a community garden
- Community Gardens are extremely good for growing food for donation purposes!
- Fulfill started 36 years ago – currently feeds 250,000 in Monmouth and Ocean Counties
- Jess grows food for donation purpose and starts gardens across Monmouth and Ocean counties in schools, community gardens, churches, etc. as well as on-site at food pantries and soup kitchens
- He grows vegetable starters and gets gardens started with plants and seeds, as well as helps sustain the gardens with plants and resources
- Jess also teaches classes for School Garden and Giving Networks, as well as for the donation recipient client base
- Discussion of the 3 types of community gardens - concepts our commission has gotten held up in
- Our large challenge is finding the space for a community garden – discussion of possibly teaming up with Aberdeen, who has a lot more space – or with having school property used if possible (although will face challenges of security access and summer management) – would also need to determine if the land is zoned for growing
- Would need a team of dedicated residents who can give 5 good years of following through with establishment and sustainability of the community garden
- Would need to be cognizant of the political structure and allowances, plus need to calculate costs of watering, fencing, tools, shed, etc

- Would need to determine what kind of community garden our community wants, how many beds, or portions of those beds or the garden itself would be dedicated to donating, and donations should initially be made to our immediate community in need
- If garden is established and has more than 20 members, should consider having a paid manager of the garden
- There is property at the Matawan United Methodist Church that was once a garden, maybe consider connecting with them?
- 2 Main takeaways from this discussion with Jess:
 - o Find the interest in the community (10 to 20 people) to grow a garden with defined purpose(s)
 - o Make sure to have a team in place to go the distance, even after the garden is established
- Once we have met those 2 takeaways/goals, Jess can put together some numbers on what it would cost in 1 year, 3 years, 5 years - also the cost of paying someone to manage it

I. NRI/Budget Status/Update (Adam)

a. Status of Fact Sheet on NRI for Mayor and Council:

- Goal: get a solid commitment from Council that they want to move forward with the NRI and the work it entails
- Meredith reviewed 12 page ERI fact sheet and pulled out the most salient points and shared with the Commission
- Adam will take second pass and whittle down the details for Council

II. Energy Aggregation (Malini & Diane)

- a. Matawan at the minimum required and after discussion with town leadership, clarity given in encouraging to increase the amount above the required minimum
- b. Red Bank and Asbury at 40% already – ahead of the state required minimum
- c. Town Council is concerned about costing the residents more money on energy
- d. Bid process is occurring now – evaluate what is potential cost to residents for going 40% or over
- e. Need to determine where in the bidding process the state is right now

III. Environmental Water Working Group (Malini)

- a. No report

IV. Spring Clean-up (Meredith)

- a. Saturday, May 14th from 10:00am to Noon

V. Community Garden (Ginny)

- a. Guest speaker/roundtable discussion above

VI. Green Team

- a. No report

VII. Reports on Affiliate Organizations

- a. Matawan Town Council (Charles Ross)
 - No Report
- b. Planning Board (Adam)
 - No Report
- c. Additional Reports from Meetings/Newsletters:
 - Aberdeen Environmental Advisory Board (No Report)

- Monmouth County Environmental Council (No Report)
- ANJEC (No Report)

VIII. Logo (Dan W. and Diane)

- a. No report

IX. Open Floor

- a. Mazza Recycling Center Tour (Tinton Falls), March 11th 10-11am
 - report – Dan has a Google album, it was a great tour – Dan is going to share the photos
- b. Henry Hudson Trail Signage Proposal
- c. Save Coastal Wildlife – Volunteers needed to help install osprey platform – Saturday, April 16th 10:00am to 11:30am (approx.), Pebble Beach, Borough of Union Beach

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm by Commission Chair Daniel Wieczorek. The next general meeting will be held at 7:00pm on May 10, 2022.

If virtually, meeting link: <https://meet.google.com/yyu-gnat-azt>

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Sanzo