

Matawan Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2023

Meeting Held Virtually

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

The regular meeting of the Matawan Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:05pm on February 13, 2023 by Commission Chair Daniel Wieczorek.

I. Meeting Attendance

a. Present

Commission Members

Daniel Wieczorek (chair)
Ginny Sanzo
Sharen Laporta
Meredith Comi
Malini Guha

Associate Members

Michele Devanny

b. Absent

Diane Doolittle
Anthony Washington
Charles Ross – Council Chair

Dan Carroll
Charli Wieczorek - Student

c. Guests

Paul Rinear, Aberdeen

II. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

a. Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2022 – Approved

III. 2023 Commission Appointments and Memberships

a. Confirmation and Summary of current Commission Appointments:

- Malini Guha – 12/31/23
- Sharen Laporta – 12/31/24 – Planning and Zoning Board Member
- Diane Doolittle – 12/31/24
- Ginny Sanzo – 12/31/24
- Dan Wieczorek – 12/31/25
- Meredith Comi – 12/31/25
- Anthony Washington – 12/31/25
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS:
 - o Michele Devanny – 12/31/23
 - o Dan Carroll – 12/31/23
 - o Charli Wieczorek (student) – 12/31/23
 - o Vacant Seat – 12/31/23
 - o Vacant Seat (student) – 12/31/23

b. Student Roles and Responsibilities

- Currently a work in progress with the school

IV. 2023 Meeting Proposed Meeting Calendar

a. Proposed 2023 Meeting Calendar - 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm

****Virtual until further notice****

- Tuesday, January 10, 2023
- Tuesday, February 14, 2023 – Re-Scheduled to Monday, February 13, 2023 at 7:00pm
- Tuesday, March 14, 2023
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023
- Tuesday, May 9, 2023
- Tuesday, June 13, 2023
- Tuesday, July 11, 2023
- Tuesday, August 8, 2023 – No August Meeting
- Additional meeting first week of September – Matawan Day Focus Meeting
- Tuesday, September 12, 2023
- Tuesday, October 10, 2023
- Tuesday, November 14, 2023
- Tuesday, December 12, 2023

V. 2023 Proposed Community Outreach/Events (Ginny/Meredith)

a. Report from committee meeting – First focus this year is on the Spring Cleanup, looking to schedule after Easter weekend – looking at the weekend of the April 29th

VI. Community Garden (Ginny)

a. No Report

VII. Logo (Dan)

a. The Environmental Club and the Art Club are both interested; need to have a focus meeting on how to run the logo competition

VIII. Ongoing Discussions/Projects Updates

- a. NRI/Budget Status/Update (-) – No Report
- b. Energy Aggregation (Malini/Diane) – JCP&L has raised their rates, Malini will reach out to the person they met with to see if it's worth putting another bid, perhaps a new bid would be competitive now that the rates are higher with JCPL
- c. Green Team – No Report

IX. Reports on Affiliate Organizations

- a. Matawan Town Council (Charlie) – No Report
- b. Planning Board (Sharen) – February had no applicants; January was a restructuring meeting.
 - Discussion regarding the Main Street project by the clock tower as some proposed (but not yet passed) changes, as well as a request to have the façade appeal to the historic Victorian feel of the town
 - Discussion regarding the designated “Revitalization Zone” by the train station

- Discussion regarding the 100 unit project at the parking lot by Hulk Gym – majority of the store front to be on High Street and the project coincides with the High Street elevation project
 - Consideration to send correspondence from the Environmental Commission to submit an opinion to keep more open space and not build property line to property line. Pointed out that there is a fair amount of communal green space designated in the project for residents of the new development
- c. Additional Reports from Meetings/Newsletters:
- Aberdeen Environmental Advisory Board – Michele attended: discussed dual town Earth Day at Freneau Park – Paul Rinear reached out to the Park Ranger there to see if the park could accommodate for a nature walk – Park Ranger advised that it would be acceptable if we worked around their existing schedule.
 - o Discussion around the idea to piggyback with the park’s events for Earth Day, maybe put some tables out with information – there is a need to clarify whether a pre-registration to attend would be necessary
 - o Discussion to check budget regarding give aways, etc for a small table, such as re-usable bags with Matawan Environmental Commission on them (like the shirts?) – or even planting seeds
 - o Information on the upcoming event:

Explore a Freshwater Pond at Freneau Woods Park
Saturday, April 22, 2023 - 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Spring has sprung and the ponds are teeming with life. Stroll along the ponds and waterways of Freneau Woods with a Park System Naturalist searching for fish, frogs and other freshwater life, perhaps even a turtle or two. Please wear appropriate footwear as trails might be muddy. Program is approximately one hour; meet at the Visitor Center.
 - Monmouth County Environmental Council – No Report
 - ANJEC – No Report
 - Save Coastal Wildlife Meeting – Diane attended, discussion of the whale deaths and the likelihood that most are caused by boating injuries
 - o Dune grass planting event coming up in the spring as well
 - Other events:
 - o Diane assisted with a Sandy Hook clean-up on the weekend of February 10th
 - o Watershed Institute Conference February 10th and February 17th - Paul Rinear attending virtually on the 17th

X. Open Floor

- a. Discussion regarding proposed Chicken Ordinance
- b. Discussion regarding the property for sale at the Presbyterian Church
 - There is an interested buyer
 - Lot has to be sub-divided and nothing has come up yet with Planning and Zoning

XI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm by Commission Chair Daniel Wieczorek.
The next general meeting will be held virtually at 7:00pm on March 14, 2023
Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/yyu-gnat-azt>

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Sanzo