

Matawan Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2023

The regular meeting of the Matawan Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:17pm on March 14, 2023 by Commission Chair Daniel Wieczorek.

I. Meeting Attendance

a. Present

Commission Members

Daniel Wieczorek (chair)  
Ginny Sanzo  
Meredith Comi  
Diane Doolittle  
Anthony Washington  
*Charles Ross – Council Chair*

Associate Members

b. Absent

Sharen Laporta  
Malini Guha

Michele Devanny  
Dan Carroll  
Charli Wieczorek – Student

c. Guests

Ray Stuetz  
Guy Buckel

II. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

a. Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2023 – Approved

III. Spring Clean-up (Community Outreach/Events) (Meredith/Ginny)

a. Firming up of dates to aim to schedule the Clean-Up – pending availability of Clean Communities

- Plan A – Saturday, April 22 – 9-11am – Lake Lefferts starting point
- Plan B – Sunday, April 23 – afternoon – Lake Lefferts starting point

b. Upcoming communication from Meredith:

- Confirmation of dates and times
- Recruitment/volunteer list for preparation and day of clean-up

IV. Upcoming Events

a. Explore a Freshwater Pond at Freneau Woods Park

- Saturday, April 22, 2023 – 11:00am and 1:00pm
- Description: “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.”
- Freneau Woods Park General Information:

<https://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?ID=4747>

- Matawan Environmental Commission to follow up with Paul Rinear from Aberdeen Environmental Advisory Board to see if we can set up a table with information (QR code) and have some giveaways such as re-usable bags
- b. Arbor Day Celebration – Matawan Municipal Community Center
  - Saturday, April 29, 2023 – 10:00am
  - Poster contest, tree sapling giveaway, tree dedication, etc.
- c. Sustainable Jersey Sustainability Summit – Bell Works, Holmdel
  - Friday, May 5, 2023 – 9:00am-4:00pm
  - <https://www.sustainablejersey.com/events/2023-sustainability-summit/>

V. Community Garden (Ginny)

- a. Received feedback from Parks and Recreation Department – 50 senior citizens who are extremely interested in working a community garden in Matawan
- b. There has been continuous interest and support of creating and sustaining a Community Garden in Matawan, as well as multiple conversations, including with Jess Sinkhorn from Fulfill Foodbank in Neptune, who provided deep insight on how to get a Community Garden up and running and forming it’s purpose (*ie* vegetable garden with a portion of produce to be donated to the Matawan Community Food Pantry)
- c. Our commission has already contributed and assisted with the garden at the Burrowes Mansion Museum since 2021
- d. ANJEC Grant application opportunity: “2023 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grants for Environmental Commissions”
  - ANJEC will provide small grants of up to \$1,500 each to environmental commissions to support projects that do BOTH of the following:
    - o Advance local open space stewardship, AND
    - o Help to raise the profile of the environmental commission in the community through publicity and public participation or collaboration with local groups on the project
  - Could help support the establishment of a Matawan Community Garden!
- e. Ginny to follow up with grant eligibility and application (deadline to apply is 4:30pm Monday, April 17, 2023)

VI. Logo (Dan)

- a. Progress noted, no further details to report

VII. Ongoing Discussions/Projects Updates

- a. NRI/Budget Status/Update ( - )
  - Reviewed the value and benefit of an NRI to the town
- b. Energy Aggregation (Malini/Diane)
  - Waiting to hear back from their contact person regarding the value of putting in another bid, now that JCP&L’s rates are higher; a new bid may be more competitive

VIII. Reports on Affiliate Organizations

- a. Matawan Town Council (Charlie) –
  - Discussion of Environmental Commission Budget
  - Support of the value of Environmental Commission collaborating with other Commissions such as Parks & Recreation and Shade Tree for projects such as a Community Garden
  - Discussion of proposed Chicken Ordinance – goes to Council either April 4 or April 18
- b. Planning Board (Sharen) – No Report
- c. Additional Reports from Meetings/Newsletters:
  - Aberdeen Environmental Advisory Board – No Report
  - Monmouth County Environmental Council – No Report
  - ANJEC –
    - o Discussion regarding current ANJEC membership, which is required to apply for the Open Space Stewardship Grant – Charlie to follow up with status of ANJEC membership and Sustainable Jersey membership/registration
  - Save Coastal Wildlife Meeting – No Report
  - Other events – None Reported

IX. Open Floor

- a. Discussion of proposed rough draft adding LEED certification to Matawan’s current Building Code – Efficiency standards for new construction with 3 benefit levels: Silver, Gold and Platinum
  - Feedback/input/suggestions/amendments requested and appreciated, to be brought to Council for workshop, public notice, etc.
  - Information about LEED certification can be found here: <https://www.usgbc.org/leed>
- b. Confirmation of Environmental Commission Meeting 2023 Meeting Calendar with the town
  - All meetings moving forward will be in-person on the Second Tuesday of every month (except August) at 7:00pm at the Matawan Municipal Community Center in Council Chambers
  - Meeting calendar will also be included on the second page of the monthly agenda

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm by Commission Chair Daniel Wieczorek.

The next general meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Matawan Municipal Community Center – Council Chambers

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Sanzo