



North Brunswick Township Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2024

1. **Members:** Jonathan Flanders, Siobhan Gibbons, Carol Paszamant, Dan Patel, Antora Banerjee, Tony Brooks, Shailendra Patel
Member Attendees: Jonathan Flanders, Siobhan Gibbons, Dan Patel, Shailendra Patel
Guests: Kristal Calkins (volunteer with Watershed Institute)
2. **Public Meeting Statement:** This regular meeting is held under the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law; adequate notice has been provided by posting in the North Brunswick Township public calendar and transmittal to the newspaper
3. **Review and Acceptance of Minutes** of prior meeting on October 22, 2024
4. **Plans to Review** – NBTOD Associates – 2300 Route 1, Major Site Plan, Due 11/8/24
 - Dan reviewed plans after October meeting and Jonathan forwarded comments to Janice Larkin.
5. **Follow up items from prior meetings:**
 - EC team requests to have a copy of township sewer plan map once available. CME still working on this. Will take months to complete per Mike Hritz email on 6/24
 - Budget for EC renewed 6/30/24 for \$500.
 - Siobhan to ask Janice Larkin who at township is responsible for looking for new grants. Siobhan says Cavel Gallimore, Chief Financial Officer, is responsible.
 - Mike Hritz 6/24/24 email to Jonathan regarding Facebook: "We can create the page and manage for you, just like the website and post anything you would like. I will speak to our FB manager."
 - Review North Brunswick EC website layout and discuss use of Facebook/Instagram. Possible updates to website (need to coordinate with Craig Yetzko)
 - a. About
 - b. Meeting Dates & Locations
 - c. Events – link to Facebook
 - d. News
 - e. Resources – eg. Locations of charging stations, Best Practices, etc.
 - f. Videos / Pictures
 - g. Volunteer opportunities
 - h. Minutes / Agenda
 - i. ERI link (Environmental Resource Inventory).
Note: This last done in 2014. Ask Mike H. how often this is updated.
6. **New Items**
 1. Kristal Calkins, a volunteer with Watershed Institute discussed implementing a rain garden by municipal building as an additional way of storm water runoff management. She would like to eventually present ideas to township council. EC

- suggested she may want to team up with Master Gardener's program. Kristal's husband went through this program.
2. Siobhan discussed the Climate Superfund Act which would make polluters pay for fossil fuel damages. Food and Water Watch will be putting together template for resolution for townships to implement.
 3. Other Items discussed:
 - USDA partnered with NJDEP to buy out flood prone properties in Cranford.
 - Mike Hritz – any update of costs for municipal center restoration?
 - Is there is an inventory of retention/detention basins for North Brunswick? What is maintenance schedule?
 - High School Environmental Club – Can we do a joint meeting?

7. Future Business:

1. More clean-up events
2. Arboretum at Pulda Farm – ANJEC grants?
3. Update EC township website
4. Enforcement of NJ idling regulations
5. Community outreach and education – North Brunswick Youth Alliance. Follow up with Aarohi. Aarohi says Youth Alliance has been instructed to work with North Brunswick High School.
6. Evaluate how well recycling working in North Brunswick
7. Township mailer
 - Detail recycling, anti-litter, library seeds program
 - Perhaps do this through North Brunswick Facebook
8. Environmental Club – High School. Reach out to them in September 2024.
9. ANJEC suggestions for no litter signs.
10. Sustainable NJ – have grants available.

8. Public Portion

9. Adjournment – Upcoming meetings:

December 17, 2024
January 28, 2025
February 25
March 25
April 22
May 27
June 24
July 22
August 26
September 23
October 28
November 25
December 16