



North Brunswick Township Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2024

1. **Members:** Jonathan Flanders, Siobhan Gibbons, Carol Paszamant, Dan Patel, Antora Banerjee, Tony Brooks, Shailendra Patel
Member Attendees: Jonathan Flanders, Siobhan Gibbons, Carol Paszamant, Dan Patel
Guests: Ginny Keil (Food and Water Watch, Empower NJ)
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 November 26, 2024
4. **Plans to Review –**
5. **Follow up items from prior meetings:**
 - 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.
 - High School Environmental Club – Can we do a joint meeting?
 - Climate Superfund Act – Siobhan discussed.
Bill introduced that would make the largest fossil fuel corporations pay for damage caused by climate change.
Similar legislation passed in New York and Vermont.
Want to see if North Brunswick will pass resolution.
Siobhan to email out copy of resolution to discuss at next meeting.
6. **New Items**
 - a. Webinar on Artificial Turf by Sierra Club – discussed cons of artificial turf including

plastic infill runoff (includes PFA's), high heat of artificial turf vs natural grass, more injuries and higher overall cost when factor in replacement every 10 years. Forwarded webinar link to township. Mike Hritz says township planning to replace turf at Sabell Park with new turf called Pivot that does not require the rubber fill that has the PFA's. Says that "natural grass fields also require a high level of maintenance that often requires significant treatments of fertilizers and other pesticides which are also not environmentally friendly."

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. ANJEC suggestions for no litter signs.
9. Sustainable NJ – have grants available.

8. Public Portion

9. Adjournment – Upcoming meetings:

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