

KEEP IT CLEAN
KEEP IT GREEN



NORTH BRUNSWICK
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION

North Brunswick Township Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2024

- 1) **Members:** Jonathan Flanders, Siobhan Gibbons, Carol Paszamant, Dan Patel, Antora Banerjee, Tony Brooks
- 2) **Member Attendees:** Jonathan Flanders, Siobhan Gibbons, Carol Paszamant, Dan Patel, Tony Brooks

Guest Attendees:

- 3) 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
- 4) Review and Acceptance of Minutes of prior meeting on January 23, 2024
- 5) List of items for Mike Hritz:
 - ACTION: Mike Hritz wants to submit write-up to ANJEC on tree planting at Pulda. Jonathan to work on DRAFT.
 - Mike - Copy of sewer plan?
Response from Mike: That's the interesting thing about the utility map; it doesn't really show you where the water goes. It would require a meeting to explain. I'll work on the map and get back to you.
 - Mike - List of vacant properties?
Response from Mike: We do not maintain such lists.
 - Mike - North Brunswick tree ordinance?
Response from Mike: It's available through the municipal website within the code within Chapter 205, Article IVA Tree Conservation and Replacement Program
 - New items to ask Mike about
 1. Does township know reason for flooding at Municipal Building during hurricane Ida? Was the sewer possibly clogged? Has there been

video inspection of sewers around Municipal building to determine if there are issues? Are sewers inspected on regular basis?

2. Discussed the fact that there have been (2) bad warehouse fires at in North Brunswick – mattress warehouse at 633 Nassau in January 2024 and July 2015 Livingston Ave. warehouse. Are fire inspections done annually? Are MSDS's kept on file with local fire companies to show potential hazardous materials?
3. Is there any potential candidate for replacing Keith Voos on EC?
4. Is there any plan for Walmart to add Electric Charging Stations? We believe Walmart is a participant in Electrify America.
5. Any update on getting EC Sewer Plan? You mentioned that plan does not show where water goes. I believe some goes to Farrington and I see in my neighborhood a sewer feed off of Adams Station leading to stream that flows to Community Park. I think knowing where water goes would be most valuable piece of information as that is where pollutants and litter could potentially end up. Any information on this would be helpful.
6. Mayor Womack had mentioned possibility of a policeman attending one of our meetings to discuss enforcement of NJ law against idling vehicles. Who should I contact to set something up?
7. NJ Municipal Land Use Law is referred to by Planning Board when reviewing building applications. Is there a copy of this available for EC?

6) Plans to Review:

A. Submitted comments for Spark Car Wash to Zoning Board

7) Budget

- Fiscal year runs to 6/30/24 - \$500.
- Joe Vincze submitted \$47.29 in receipts to Mike Hritz 7/24/23
- Joe submitted \$44.25 receipt to Mike for American Smoke Tree 10/15/23

8) Electric Lawn Equipment: Keith - reps from four ECs in the county (including ours) have for an exhibit of electric lawn and yard care equipment. Event to be held April 14th from noon to 3 PM in Yelencsics Park, Edison.

9) ANJEC resolution to extend corporate business tax for preserving open space:

Two actions: signing an individual letter to Gov. Murphy asking him to extend the expiring Corporate Business Tax, which I have just done, and asking Environmental Commissions to adopt a resolution drafted by ANJEC to send to ANJEC for it to present to Murphy. I believe we will all be in favor of these actions, so I ask that this matter be put on our December meeting agenda.

Jonathan submitted to ANJEC 2/19/24.

10) Earth Day April 6th at 10:30 AM at Pulda Farm. Organizers should show up by 10 AM.

A. Jonathan – discussed doing clean-up of Pulda and sections of Route 130

nearby.

B. Also discussed doing clean-up of Jersey Ave near Malouf. Perhaps do 2 groups – one at Pulda and one at Jersey Ave.

C. Jonathan to follow up with LouAnn Benson again closer to date.

11) Joe Vincze contacted me about “native plants at the Pulda Farm or elsewhere.

Help combat the spread of invasives while promoting native plants in your community.

Native Plant Donations for Habitat Projects

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County donates native plants to local organizations to create or enhance habitat, such as pollinators, butterflies, or rain gardens. To qualify the project must be located in Middlesex, Union, or Somerset counties only and must be at a public location like a library, school, park, or municipal complex.

For more information contact Michele Bakacs at bakacs@njaes.rutgers.edu.

12) Other actions

A. Upcoming EC Meeting dates

March 26
 April 23
 May 28
 June 25
 July 23
 August 27
 September 24
 October 22
 November 26
 December 17

B. Master Plan discussions

- Please refer to Jonathan’s email dated 1/17/24 which summarizes discussion with Mike Hritz.
- Discussed Land Use being the primary guide for building applications. The NJ Municipal Land Use Law (2024) edition is available on-line (\$35/\$50)

C. Goals for 2024 – Jonathan presented to township council on February 12th.

13) Future Business

- What do we want to work on in 2024
 1. Heritage Day – October 5th, 3 to 10 PM. Check in 12 noon. Setup by 2 PM for inspection.
 2. More clean up events
 3. Arboretum at Pulda Farm – ANJEC grants?
 4. Update EC township website
 5. Enforcement of NJ idling regulations
 6. Community outreach and education – possibly NJ police academy.
 7. Evaluate how well recycling working in North Brunswick
 8. Township mailer
 - Detail recycling, anti-litter, library seeds program
 9. Environmental Club – High School. Reach out to them.
 10. ANJEC suggestions for no litter signs.
 11. Sustainable NJ – have grants available.
 12. Plant swap

14) Public Portion

15) Adjournment - Announcement of next meeting: March 26, 2024