

KEEP IT CLEAN
KEEP IT GREEN



NORTH BRUNSWICK
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION

North Brunswick Township Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2024

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

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 December 19, 2023
- 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?
 - Mike - List of vacant properties?
 - Mike - North Brunswick tree ordinance?
- 6) Plans to Review:
 - A. Amaranth Phase 2.
 - Planning Board Meeting on December 12th at 7:30 PM.
 - Mike Hritz met with Jonathan on January 10th and provided feedback to EC's comments.
- 7) Siobhan's notes from January 9th Planning Board Meeting
 - I also want to give you all a heads up about the Planning Board meeting that I attended last night. It was about a request to change plans from the developers of the Main Street development (TOMD i.e. Transit Oriented Mixed Use Development) on Route 1. The developers originally got permission (about 20 yrs ago) to build residential and retail units there including tearing down an already existing warehouse. These plans assumed the existence of the train station and did not anticipate online shopping that would decimate brick and mortar retail.

- They now want to
- 1. 'decouple' their plans from the proposed train station (since no one seems to know when the train station will happen) I don't actually know what 'decouple' means and even less the implications of that.
- 2. reduce the number of residential units, tear down the existing warehouse and guess what? build a slightly smaller more modern warehouse!
- I have to say they got A LOT of pushback from the planning board and are having to come back for another meeting (not in Feb) with another proposal.
- Please also see Jonathan's 1/17/24 emailed notes from Mike Hritz meeting.
- Additional note on J&J site Transit site: This site needs clean-up. Would take about 2 years.
- In future we should ask planning board how much money township is to get from taxes for proposed building and how many jobs to be generated.

6) 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.

EC needs to submit resolution to ANJEC.

10) Earth Day:

A. Jonathan – Plogging event for Earth Day?

Jonathan to follow up with Lou Ann with ideas.

11) Other actions

A. Meeting dates

February 27
 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.

C. Goals for 2024 – Would be good to put forth a list of new year's goals to township at January meeting. We could mention again for need for amendments to Master Plan, goals for recycling, litter reduction, cleaner air, etc.

- Refer to handout with notes from Jonathan and Keith

12) Future Business

- What do we want to work on in 2024
 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 – possibly NJ police academy.
 6. Evaluate how well recycling working in North Brunswick
 7. Township mailer
 - Detail recycling, anti-litter, library seeds program
 8. Environmental Club – High School. Reach out to them.
 9. ANJEC suggestions for no litter signs.
 10. Sustainable NJ – have grants available.
 11. Plant swap

13) Public Portion

14) Adjournment - Announcement of next meeting: February 27, 2024