

KEEP IT CLEAN
KEEP IT GREEN



NORTH BRUNSWICK
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION

North Brunswick Township Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2024

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

Member Attendees: Jonathan Flanders, Siobhan Gibbons, Carol Paszamant, Antora Banerjee

Guest Attendees:

- 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 March 26, 2024
- 4) List of items for Mike Hritz (March meeting)
- ACTION: Mike Hritz wants to submit write-up to ANJEC on tree planting at Pulda. Jonathan to work on DRAFT.
 - Sent Mike following questions last week when he was out of office. He will respond when he gets back.
 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?
Mikes response: There is no real mystery for the flooding. We had four to six inches of rain within a two-hour period, or a '200-year' storm. As soon as the storm sewers caught up, the water left the building and site as quickly as it came. Nonetheless, we are fully evaluating the area system to try and avert the problem.
 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?

Mikes response: Yes, fire inspections are done annually. Yes, MSDS reports are maintained. The cause of the 2015 was never fully identified but there were existing issues with the sprinkler system that had been violated by the township. We know the origin and general cause of the Nassau Street fire, though that report has not been made public at this time.

3. Is there any potential candidate for replacing Keith Voos on EC?

Mikes response: No, I defer entirely to you and your colleagues to invite someone to express their interest in writing to the Mayor's office.

- Antora proposed Shailendra Patel as new member

4. Is there any plan for Walmart to add Electric Charging Stations? We believe Walmart is a participant in Electrify America.

Mikes response: Not that I'm aware. Since they are not 'before us' we cannot require same, and the newly amended state law actually prevents us from requiring charging stations. I imagine you would need to engage the Walmart general manager directly.

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.

Mikes response: We are just beginning this mapping, which will take several months.

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?

Mikes response: Lt. Erik Jacobsen, who leads the traffic safety division.

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?

Mikes response: You could purchase a copy of copies out of your budget.

- Jonathan still needs to purchase copy
<https://www.njpo.org/products>

5) New List of items for March meeting

1. Mike H. - Need new key for building
2. Need to find new EC member. Maybe check with LouAnn Benson or

Environmental club at high school.

3. Mike H. - Can charging stations be added to municipal lot.
4. Mike H. – Plant swap at JFK park Saturday May 4th
5. Purchase NJ Municipal Land Use Law.
6. Following states have Green Amendment – Montana, NY, Pennsylvania

6) Plans to Review:

A. 2300 Route 1, Block 141, Lot 38.01 (New building at Main Street)

- Comments due May 31
- Suggest solar panels
- What is building going to be used for?

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.

- Jonathan attended. Had rep from Toro distributor located on Stelton Lane in Piscataway. He demonstrated equipment and gave information. Also had someone show EGO lawn equipment. Blowers, chainsaws and lawnmowers all had common rechargeable battery. Larger mowers took up to (3) batteries.

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

- Jonathan, Carol and Aabir Banerjee participated in clean up. Carolyn Flanders was there for Master Gardeners – had table and handouts including rain barrel, composting and other plant information.

10) 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.

- Joe has reached out to Michel twice via email and has not heard back.

11) Other actions

A. Upcoming EC Meeting dates

May 28 – Carol cannot make it to meeting.

June 25

July 23

August 27

September 24

October 22

November 26

December 17

12) 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

13) Public Portion

14) Adjournment - Announcement of next meeting: May 28, 2024