

KEEP IT CLEAN
KEEP IT GREEN



NORTH BRUNSWICK
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION

North Brunswick Township Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2024

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

Member Attendees: Jonathan Flanders, Siobhan Gibbons, Dan Patel, Antora Banerjee, Tony Brooks

Guest Attendees: Shailendra Patel

- 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 April 23, 2024
- 4) Potential candidate for replacing Keith Voos on EC:
 - Antora proposed Shailendra Patel as new EC member; Shailendra attended this meeting and introduced himself to all members present. Jonathan will forward Shailendra's request for membership to the Mayor's office.
- 5) Jonathan presented the following updates to the EC team:
 - Mayor Womack had mentioned possibility of a policeman attending one of our meetings to discuss enforcement of NJ law against idling vehicles. Jonathan has left messages for Lt. Erik Jacobsen, who leads the traffic safety division; the EC is awaiting a response.
 - Jonathan distributed with the EC team a copy of the NJ Municipal Land Use Law Manual – this copy will remain with the EC for future reference.
 - Joe Vincze did plant swap on May 4th at JFK park.
 - Jonathan and Carolyn Flanders distributed 100 trees provided to North Brunswick by Living Lands & Water at Master Gardner Plant Sale on May 11th

It was suggested to request the township's social media coordinator to help publicize future EC initiatives and use of social media platforms (eg. Facebook) for better

attendance.

6) Plans reviewed at meeting today:

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

The EC made the following suggestions:

- Suggest solar panels be affixed and the building be made as energy efficient as possible
- Suggest signs to prevent vehicle idling around the building
- Request more info on what is building going to be used for?
- Suggested storm water and sewer drainage plans be made ahead of time to prevent flooding risks
- The EC requests more information from the township on any further proposed changes to Main Street North Brunswick

B. 1601 Livingston Ave (Building previously was Toyota service center- proposed to become Tesla Collision Repair Center)

The EC made the following suggestions:

- Adequate arrangements for handling paint emissions as paint fumes release into the environment is a possibility
- Adequate arrangements for disposal of paint and paint waste
- Adherence with township and state standards for paint booth safety. Request for township to be provided with environmental and safety guidelines (EHSG)
- Suggest providing township with fire prevention/fire safety guidelines planned for the building

7) Budget updates reported to EC

- 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
- Jonathan submitted receipt for \$34.50 for Municipal Land Use Law.

8) Native Plant Donations for Habitat Projects (to prevent spread of invasive species)

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 bakacs@njaes.rutgers.edu)

- Joe Vincze contacted and heard back from Michele and is planning to plant 5'x20' plot at Pulda Farm – native plants will be provided by the Rutgers Earth Center

9) Other actions

Upcoming EC Meeting dates were reviewed:

June 25
 July 23
 August 27
 September 24
 October 22
 November 26
 December 17

10) Future Business

- What do we want to work on in 2024 – discussion deferred to next meeting
 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- Antora will bring this to the organizer for discussion.
 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.

11) Public Portion – no public present

12) Adjournment - Announcement of next meeting: June 25, 2024

Minutes submitted respectfully by Antora Banerjee, EC Board Member.