

Metuchen Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2015

2015 Meeting Matrix	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	21	18	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	16
M. Herzberg	P							X				X
D. Rasmussen, Council Liaison	P							X				X
A. Dohl	M	M						X				X
J. Schaffer	P							X				X
B. Weeks	P							X				X
B. Strom	A							X				X
OPEN, Planning Board Liaison								X				X
S. Burke	A							X				X

Key: P = Present, A = Absent, M = Minutes Assigned/Taken, N = Not a Member, X = No Meeting Scheduled/Held.
Meetings held at Borough Hall, starting at 7PM.

Annual Reorganization

- The meeting was Called to Order at 7:07 pm
- Councilwoman Dorothy Rasmussen opened the meeting, Mark Herzberg was reelected chair.
- Minute taking will continue on a rotating schedule.
- Introductions were done.
- We welcomed Borough Administrator Jennifer Maier to the meeting

Agenda Items

- We welcomed visitors Ellen and Melanie McNeil. Melanie is a girl scout working on her Silver Award, which is scouting's 2nd highest award. She discussed with us some ideas for cleaning up the Greenway as part of the work on her award.
 - Clean up of greenway – in sections, similar to adopt a highway. Different groups would take a section each and cleanup their section, get a sign perhaps.
 - A study first, which areas are the worst???
 - Discussion of what has been done in the past to keep the greenway clean, earth day program, signs could be a problem, some people don't like adding signage to a "wooded" area and the county may not allow.
 - Recognition at a council meeting, county meeting, sign at kiosk at trailhead park?
 - This is a preliminary concept, Melanie will still have to develop the plan, and figure out what will all be done, what the reporting would be.
 - What can businesses contribute to adopt? Such as providing refreshments to workers who do cleanup.
 - Jennifer offered to set up a meeting with Fred Hall for Melanie to discuss options.
 - Also businesses need to arrange for charitable donations, could donate funds for the work to cleanup.
 - The group made some suggestions and comments. Melanie will review and return with some more formal ideas for the project.
- Minutes of Previous Meeting – Brian moved to approve the minutes, Angela seconded.
Approved

- Correspondence –
 - 5 NJDEP bulletins since November meeting, nothing pertaining to Metuchen.
 - In the mail – notification of application for flood hazard area for Old Dominion 180 Talmadge Rd. Edison, underground stormwater detention system, repaving, parking.
 - Notice of treatment works approval for the Pearl St. project. Sewer laterals and contributory flow for new apartment buildings. Look at the plans sent to us, discussion about the storm water and sustainability reuse to water plants, etc. First flush rain water is the most dirty, first 15 minutes, don't use, Jennifer will ask questions of the engineers concerning reuse of storm water. Joe to do a review of the plans sent to us.

- Middlesex Greenway – circulated the Together NJ plan report for the Greenway after public sessions, also on web site. Discussion about small extension occurring in Woodbridge. For Metuchen, using the existing PSE&G abutments to bridge the greenway across Middlesex Avenue from Trailhead Park toward South Plainfield.

- Dismal Swamp – on Borough web page is Eagle Scout's report on the trail. County reported to Dorothy today, some properties adjacent to the swamp are under contract for county to purchase. Discussion on the plans for obtaining survey information and various data sets that may be available to us.

- Sustainable Jersey – received bronze status, presented at council meeting last night. Beth's email about the grant application was discussed. Deadline for submittal is next week, no council meeting before then to get resolution. Dorothy trying to talk to Sustainable Jersey about this to see if we can do something other than a resolution to gain approval.

- Anjec grant \$1500 – application due in April, will discuss what we could apply for. Is there something in the Together NJ report that we could pick up on?

- Tree Farm – no tree farm – will hopefully plant the leftover trees by the tennis courts.

- Open space inventory – nothing new

- Planning Board – they reorganized but we don't know who our liason is yet.

- New business - none

Next meeting

Wednesday February 18, 2015 at 7 PM