

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 22, 2024

The secretary called the meeting of the Chesterfield Township Environmental Commission to order at 6:30PM. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read and compliance noted.

Present: Suruchi Batra; Sarah Dyson; Rachel Dekovitch; Ryan Rathbun; Nancy Scarafile; Rebecca Hughes Absent: Jane Ryan

MINUTES

February 27, 2024

May 28, 2024

June 25, 2024

August 27, 2024

A motion was made by Sarah second by Rebecca to approve the February 27th meeting minutes. All in favor with the exception of Rachel and Nancy who abstained, motion carried.

A motion was made by Rachel second by Nancy to approve the May 28th meeting minutes. All in favor with the exception of Sarah and Rebecca who abstained, motion carried.

A motion was made by Sarah second by Suruchi to approve the June 25th meeting minutes, all in favor with the exception of Rebecca who abstained, motion carried.

A motion was made by Rachel second by Ryan to approve the August 27, 2024 meeting minutes, all in favor with the exception of Rebecca who abstained, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

None

DISCUSSION

Kestrel Box-

Nancy took in a Kestrel box that was in disrepair. The box appeared to be currently habituated and will be remounted by the Public works department now that it is repaired.

ERI

The ERI is almost complete. The final edits were sent, the Environmental Commission will review the preliminary final, then once approved can be published and the grant can be closed out.

Rigid Plastics event

The Rigid Plastics event will take place on November 9th from 10am-2pm, the members discussed who would cover the morning and afternoon shift so there will be a representative of the Environmental Commission there at all times. They discussed extending the invitation to neighboring towns to promote the event for a better turn out.

Sustainable New Jersey

Nancy explained that the EC fell short on credits for the certification, however they reached out to her and Nancy performed the necessary actions to obtain the last 5 points needed. Sarah suggested possible creating subcommittees to handle certain tasks to avoid confusion and promote more participation. Nancy explained that there will be money from the sustainable NJ grant. Discussed looking into the parks not all having recycling buckets as a possible project, will reach out to Troy.

Beaver Wire

Nancy and Rachel took a 50 foot roll of beaver wire and wrapped 12 trees by Recklesstown circle. Nancy stated she would like to get another roll to keep up with these efforts on the northern side of Recklesstown Way. A motion was made by Nancy second by Rachel to approve the purchase of two additional rolls of beaver wire. All were in favor, motion carried.

Eagle Scout Kiosk

The Kiosk project that was led by an eagle scout is located near the cut through on Recklesstown Way. This Kiosk will be for EC use only, Nancy has been in contact with Troy to secure the kiosk so it is only available for relevant EC information such as informational flyers and to promote events. The members discussed rotating out information seasonally to keep up to date. Nancy proposed there be a plaque crediting the Eagle Scout who led the project and also to promote that this will be used for official EC business only. A motion was made by Nancy second by Sarah for the purchase of the Plaque through a Vendor that was pre-approved through the Township CFO for no more than \$50. All in favor, Motion carried.

2025 Proposed Budget-

The 2025 proposed budget was distributed to the members for their review. Nancy asked if they would feel comfortable with her sitting down with Aggie and reviewing the budget line by line then sending any proposed changes to the members for review.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Sarah talked briefly regarding the correction facility and discussed how one of the main reasons for the shutdown was because the water system was not up to code or monitored properly.

Rachel discussed the tree replacement ordinance that was sent to board members for their review. Suruchi explained that Larry Kuser has expressed he would be interested in donating non-invasive trees to replenish the Ash trees that were removed in the Old York Village. Rebecca will inquire with the Township Committee to see what would be allowed in those areas as there is currently restrictions with replanting trees in the strip between the sidewalk and the street.

Nancy asked that all members submit their hours for the year to her by December for her report.

Suruchi attended a Sustainable NJ conference where they recommended getting the schools involved with some projects. There are many grants available through Sustainable NJ that the schools can apply for. The Board will look into getting the school involved.

The board briefly discussed a possible composting event since it has been a few years since the last. Sarah suggested looking into doing a compost event every three years.

Sarah stated she has a contact who may be interested in working in connection with the EC to put together an event possibly at the library or community house. The event would be a workshop to teach how to plant flowers and how to make a bouquet of wildflowers etc.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion was made by Nancy second by Rachel to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Hailey Bell, Administrative A