

# South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee

## Official Minutes - January 10, 2024

### 1. Call to Order

Notice having been filed with the S.P. Observer and TAP into SP, Chairwoman Debra Leporino called the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:38 pm.

**Present:** Debra Leporino (chairwoman) Tom Walsh, John Ferguson, Genevieve Helbo, Melanie Mott (council liaison) and Rich Houghton (planning board liaison).

**Others:** Kristina Nieradka

**Absent:** Lisa Roseo (secretary)

### 2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the November 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed and all were in favor of approval. There was no meeting in December.

### 3. Invitation for Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

### 4. Budget -

- No details were provided yet.
- Debra asked to meet with Melanie and Kristina to talk about the budget details.

### 5. Committee and Liaison Reports

#### A. Council Liaison - Ms. M. Mott

- Melanie Mott explained the change from 'Commission' to 'Committee'. Upon Dr. Tempel's retirement, the Borough will not be replacing her with another Environmental Specialist. Certain responsibilities will be re-delegated and will no longer involve the SPEAC. T & M Associates will be taking over 'Land Use' & 'Site Plans' e.g. – landscape projects etc. We can still make recommendations. Paul Rizzo will be revising our By-laws. When they are available, we will need to present them at a meeting, review/revise, and then vote on them at the following meeting.

#### B. Planning Board Liaison - Mr. R. Houghton / Mr. B. Bythell

- Rich said the Planning Board has not met since November and has not had their reorganization meeting yet.

#### C. ERI - Ms. D. Leporino

- Debra asked Melanie if we still need to be notified when Boro parcels of land are sold in order to update the ROSI. Melanie will ask Glenn Cullen if the committee will be responsible or will T&M Associates.

#### D. Clean Communities - Ms. K. Nieradka / Ms. D. Leporino

- Kristina said she is in the midst of organizing the Clean Communities responsibilities. The 2024 Tonnage Grant will be her largest task. She will be working hard to capture as many reports as possible. She is updating the list of Borough companies and their contacts.
- Adopt-a-Spot – Debra reported that for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023, we have not received the renewal from Cub Scout Pack 207 yet. For the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023, we have not heard back from the Bourbeau Family. Debra will call again. For the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024, we have five renewals set to expire as of 3/31.

- Debra said she is in the process of putting together a mission statement for the SPCCA. She will present the draft to the SPEAC at the next meeting.
- Debra said she wants the SPCCA to have a presence at our town's public events in order to continue to promote the Adopt-a-Spot program and any other of our Clean Communities' programs.
- Debra would like to expand the 'Glitter Award' that has been presented to Boro businesses and include an incentive to residents. She will try and meet with Chief Papa in the future to discuss ideas
- Kristina said she has attended a few seminars & webinars related to Clean Communities programs. She will share the information she gathers.
- Debra would also like to revisit the SPCCA presentation that was to take place this past November. We will need to come up with a topic and the committee will have to approve it first.

#### E. Land Use - TBD

#### F. Forestry - TBD

- Melanie will ask Glenn if T&M Associates or who else will be monitoring site plans and the Harris Steel Tree fund payments. Should we combine 'Forestry' with 'Land Use'? The committee wants to be kept informed by whoever will be managing the town's trees so we can monitor and comment.

#### G. Highland Avenue Woods / Public Education - TBD

- Tom read the information he received from Dorothy: Dr. DeVito repaired sections of the deer fence. Dorothy has a meeting set up with Kevin McCann, Grant School Assistant Principal, to start formulating hands-on environmental education at HAW. Tom reiterated that he would ask Dorothy if she would be willing to keep us updated on the goings-on with HAW.

#### H. Historical Sites Preservation - TBD

- Tom will inquire about getting updates from Dorothy.

#### I. Pollution - Mr. J. Ferguson

- John said the EPA continues to work on standards for the 'forever chemicals'. There are businesses that do not want to discontinue using the chemicals for their operations and people who do not want the chemicals around forever.
- John spoke about a new process developed by Veolia Environmental Services, which can withdraw food particles from used containers from restaurants. The process separates the food particles from the plastic, which gets returned back into the soil. The plastic gets melted down and sent elsewhere to be reused. John said the company is doing great work in providing operational expertise for clean water around the world.
- EPRA (emergency planning community response act) – The county will be having their official annual drill in October. John explained any town that has a business that uses any of the designated 333 most toxic chemicals, must have an emergency response plan in place. That response plan that ensures public safety must be tested.

#### J. Green Team - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom said the GT will be meeting on 2/1 to go over action items in order to maintain our Bronze Certification. The first-round deadline is 2/25. Reaching the required points will be more difficult without Alice on staff who was involved in many of the things that would qualify for points. Kristina said she will be in charge of monitoring/capturing/record keeping for the recycling center and recycling

tonnage from Boro businesses. Kristina will be attending a DEP class on the tonnage grant. She will share the links to all the Clean Community webinars with Debra.

#### K. Public Information & Technology - TBD

- Debra asked if anyone was interested in taking over this sub-committee to post/maintain all the information we want to share. Kristina said Alice made her the administrator of our Facebook page. Tom mentioned the Sustainable NJ link on the Boro website under our EAC page, needs to be updated.

#### L. Stormwater Advisory Committee - Mr. J. Ferguson

- John reported the 911 response system , PSAP (public safety answering points), will be changing from Verizon to Lumen Technologies. It will be an upgraded system that will be GIS dependent, not hard-wired.

#### M. Chairwoman's Report - Ms. D. Leporino

- Debra told members not to hesitate to offer her constructive criticism. She is looking forward to working as a team.

### 6. Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

### 7. Old Business

### 8. New Business

- Tom asked Melanie if Mayor Anesh held the 'State of the Town' address. Melanie said he has not yet; we have until March.
- Genevieve asked if it would benefit our committee to advertise for new members. Melanie said we can do that. The ordinance states the committee is between 3 – 7 members; a quorum is 3. Currently we have four voting members: Tom, Debra, John and Genevieve. We can solicit new applicants.

### 9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Roseo  
Environmental Advisory Committee Secretary

## Acronyms

ANJEC	-Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions
BOA	-Board of Adjustment
CBA	-Clean Business Association
CCAB	-Clean Communities Advisory Board
DOT	-Department of Transportation
DPW	-Department of Public Works
EIS	-Environmental Impact Study
EPA	-Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	-Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOW	-Friends of the Woods
GBFCP	-Green Brook Flood Control Project
HAW	-Highland Avenue Woods
KCS	-Known Contaminated Sites
LEEDS	-Lead in Energy and Environmental Design
LOI	-Letter of Interpretation
MCDSWM	-Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management
MCOEM	-Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management
NJDEP	-New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NOV	-Notice of Violation
OTOSP	-Oak Tree Open Space Parcel
PRP'S	-Potentially Responsible Parties
ROSI	-Recreation and Open Space Inventory
ROW	-Right of Way
SPBA	-South Plainfield Business Association
SPCCA	-South Plainfield Clean Communities Association
SPEAC	-South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee
USACE	-United States Army Corp of Engineers