

South Plainfield Environmental Commission

Official Minutes - February 12, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Notice having been filed with the Courier News and S.P. Observer, Chairwoman Dorothy Miele called the Environmental Commission meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 8:02 pm.

Present: Dorothy Miele, Tom Walsh, Debra Leporino, Danielle Hurst, John Ferguson, Adam Butrico and Brian Bythell (planning board liaison)

Alternate members present: Jordan Mandel

Associate members present: Kathleen Benton and Lisa Roseo (secretary)

Others: Dr. A. Tempel (environmental specialist)

Absent: Nicole Esposito and Pete Smith

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 8, 2020 reorganization and regular meeting were reviewed and all were in favor of approval.

3. INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no members of the public present.

4. BUDGET - Dr. A. Tempel

- O&E (FY2020) (\$500 temporary budget) Since the last meeting we spent \$475 for ANJEC dues. YTD spent = \$475. Balance = \$25.
- Clean Communities - (2019 grant \$50,329.53) Spent since January meeting = \$2,397.50 on: \$922.50 on sign enforcement and litter removal salary & wages; \$475 for litter can maintenance; \$1000 for two Spring assembly programs in Franklin School. Spent YTD = \$20,548.10 since 8/15/19. The balance = \$29,781.13.
- Signs Trust Fund – Spent \$0. The balance = \$595.12.
- Harris Steel Tree Fund – Since the last report we spent \$0. Deposits = \$0. Current balance is \$31,653.78.

5. COMMITTEE and LIAISON REPORTS

A. Council Liaison - Mr. P. Smith

- There was no report.

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

- Brian said last night's meeting was canceled. Glopack (Case Dr.) asked for an adjournment until March.

C. Site Plan Review - Mr. A. Butrico / Mr. J. Mandel

- Leiria Towing (3047 So. Clinton Ave.) - Jordan reported on his and Adam's findings. Applicant needs a zoning variance retroactively. They have been using the lot for commercial truck/equipment storage. It is also being used as an overflow lot for a nearby truck repair facility. The site had a single-home dwelling which was demolished in 2017. The lot is broken asphalt & gravel. SPEC will comment about potential issues for vehicle fluids leaks and excessive idling.
- Castainca, Nuno & Melissa (277 So. Plainfield Ave.) - Applicant is proposing to subdivide current residential lot into two lots. They need a variance for the width. Jordan said there is no landscaping plan; they will be removing some large trees according to the site plan. Dr. Tempel explained that our tree removal ordinance exempts residential properties that have an existing house. Because they are

creating a new lot, we may be able to ask for a tree removal/replacement plan. The development review ordinance tree regulations apply to major subdivisions generally. Dr. Tempel mentioned that is a wet area. Jordan commented that there will be an increase in impervious surface in an already wet area. The applicant is proposing an underground storm tank detention basin.

- JRB Properties (334 Shevchenko Ave.) - Applicant wants to construct a 11,800 sq. ft. warehouse to store perfume. Currently there is a one-story dwelling that will be demolished. There are nearby residences; it is zoned for mixed-use. Applicant needs several setback & side variances. Jordan reported there are wetlands on the back portion of the lot. They will be removing a significant number of trees, including a 30" Sugar Maple. Reviewed the species in their tree removal/replacement plan. Dr. Tempel will review for correct replacement calculations. There will be a large increase in impervious surface; they are proposing storm filters plus upstream & downstream chambers. SPEC will ask for anti-idling signs, a solid waste/recycling plan, maintenance manual for the filters and an emergency response plan in case of liquid spill.

D. ERI -

- There was nothing new to report.

E. Clean Communities - Dr. A. Tempel

- Dr. Tempel sent an email blast to Spring Litter Cleanup volunteers with Save the Date notice for April 18.
- Dr. Tempel said the new energy efficiency software used by DPW shows the Clean Communities truck is only getting 11mpg. Kevin Kober averages about 150 miles per week. Sometimes Kevin needs to idle the truck in order to use the safety beacon on busy roads.
- Dr. Tempel mentioned that Dave Street will be performing two Clean Communities presentations at Franklin School.
- Debra reported on her and Dr. Tempel's work on revising the Adopt-a-Spot contract format. Debra said our Boro attorney reviewed the proposed revised contract and came back with limited comments. He suggested to add a 30-day notice to the right to terminate the contract if terms aren't being met. Currently, the Adopt-a-Spot program is administered through the CBA. Debra emphasized that Adopt-a-Spot participants are not only business owners, but also families, residents and non-profits. Therefore, she thinks the program should broaden and possibly change its name to CCA (Clean Communities Association) She would then come up with a mission statement that would encompass all those groups. Dr. Tempel noted that by changing the organization, it will eliminate the thrust of the CBA. The current pamphlets and write-ups are all geared towards trying to promote participation of the S.P. Business Community in good property maintenance and litter control in order to improve the commercial districts. The Clean Communities program as a whole is already embracing the town as a whole. Dorothy said she feels as though the Adopt-a-Spot program, at this point, is a separate entity from the CBA. Dr. Tempel noted that if the program falls under another entity, the agreement would then need to be signed between the participants and a representative of the new entity. Dr. Tempel explained the genesis of the Adopt-a-Spot program. The program was born out of the CBA because the first adoptee was a local business owner who reached out to CBA members volunteering to clean up the South Clinton Ave. extension area that was constantly full of litter. After some confused discussion and no resolution, SPEC agreed to leave the contract 'as-is' and discuss again after the new batch of contracts is sent out.

F. Land Use - Dr. A. Tempel

- There was nothing new to report.

G. Forestry - Mr. A. Butrico / Mr. J. Schmidt

- Dr. Tempel spoke with Len Miller about the pending tree planting in Willow Park / Boro Hall. The project will move forward in the spring.
- Dorothy reported on the NJDEP tree seedling giveaway that we are coordinating with the Jr. Baseball Club Opening Day. Turns out the State will not be distributing as many deciduous trees because of the

wet growing season. Dorothy isn't sure how well residents will receive more spruce/pine saplings.

- Salem Oak - Dorothy spoke with Glenn Cullen who was thrilled to have this oak planted at the new community pool complex. Dorothy also met Jonathan Walezak, landscape architect, at the pool site. They observed that the land isn't level, pitches back. Jonathan is interested in offering his service to the Boro to create a sustainable-type landscaping plan for the facility as well as the Salem Oak sapling. Currently, the Boro has no landscaping plan for the complex. Tom suggested installing a rain garden in the back wet area. Tom said he will talk with Jonathan. Dorothy said there will be an upcoming meeting with Glenn Cullen to discuss details.

H. Highland Avenue Woods / Public Education - Mrs. D. Miele

- There was nothing new to report.

I. Historical Sites Preservation - Mr. L. Randolph

- There was nothing to report.

J. Pollution - Mr. A. Butrico / Ms. D. Hurst

- Adam reported the EPA's budget may be cut by up to 26%, which might affect Superfund sites - Cornell-Dublier. Dr. Tempel said this is an ongoing project. The EPA already has a design to dig up the contaminated soil in the wetlands behind the site, removing the double culvert and then restoring the wetlands. 3.5 acres of wetlands and forested wetlands will be removed. EPA is waiting for NJDEP wetlands and Tree Permit applications. Once that is complete, they should start designing the stream restoration.

K. Green Team - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom said he spoke with Len Miller and Kristina, DPW, about the fleet inventory.
- Dr. Tempel said the Green Team met on 1/22. Started to identify who is going to be uploading documentation for each action to qualify for points.
- The team needs to finalize the list of Green Team members to give to the Mayor & Council to adopt their resolution. Lisa read last years roster. There is a vacancy for another SPEC member. Danielle said she would volunteer if her schedule permits. Adam made a motion to appoint the members read by Lisa, seconded by John, and all were in favor.

L. Public Information & Technology - Dr. A. Tempel / Mr. C. Cioffi

- Dr. Tempel reported SPEC's Facebook page carried 9 posts in January. Reached 3,953 and engaged 284 people.

M. Stormwater Advisory Committee- Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom said he will be writing an article soon to post in 'The Observer' and media outlets, with information on fertilizing. In April, Tom will submit an article on the 'Cut-it and Leave-It' program.

N. Environmental Specialist - Dr. A. Tempel

- There was nothing additional to report.

O. Chairwoman's Report - Mrs. D. Miele

- There was nothing new to report.

6. INCOMING / OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

- A list of correspondences is attached
- Dr. Tempel said we received a letter from ANJEC asking us to support the plastic bag ban by contacting our legislators. She read their narrative. ANJEC has provided a model ordinance. Adam, Jordan and Danielle will look at the ordinance and discuss at our next meeting.

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Dr. Tempel read SPEC's dollars budgeted vs. actual expenses for 2019 in order to propose our 2020 budget. Our budget was \$2,375 in 2019. After discussion, Tom made a motion to request the same, seconded by John, and all were in favor of approval.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m. The next reorganization and regular meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2020 at 8:00 pm in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Roseo
Environmental Commission Secretary

ACRONYMS

ANJEC	- Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions
BOA	- Board of Adjustment
CAG	- Community Advisory Group
CBA	- Clean Business Association
CCAB	- Clean Communities Advisory Board
CFMP	- Community Forestry Management Plan
DOT	- Department of Transportation
DPW	- Department of Public Works
EIS	- Environmental Impact Study
EPA	- Environmental Protection Agency
ERI	- Environmental Resources Inventory
EWA	- Edison Wetlands Association
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	- The Lead in Energy and Environmental Design
MCDSWM	- Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management
MCUFAC	- Middlesex County Urban Forestry Advisory Committee
NJCF	- New Jersey Conservation Foundation
NJDEP	- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NOV	- Notice of Violation
OEM	- Office of Emergency Mgmt.
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
SPEC	- South Plainfield Environmental Commission
USACE	- United States Army Corp of Engineers