

South Plainfield Environmental Commission
Official Minutes
Reorganization Meeting - January 8, 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 8:03 pm.

Present: Dorothy Miele, Tom Walsh, Debra Leporino, Danielle Hurst, John Ferguson, Adam Butrico, Pete Smith (council liaison) and Rich Houghton (planning board liaison)

Alternate members present: Jordan Mandel

Associate members present: Lisa Roseo (secretary)

Others: Dr. Tempel (environmental specialist)

Absent: Nicole Esposito (Alt II)

2. ADOPT BY-LAWS

There were no changes / additions proposed to the by-laws. Adam Butrico made a motion to adopt, seconded by Debra Leporino, and all were in favor of approval.

3. ELECT VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Adam Butrico nominated Debra Leporino, Tom Walsh seconded and all were in favor of approval.

4. APPOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Dorothy went through current committee chair people. Adam Butrico will be added to chair the 'Forestry' committee. Chris Cioffi and Dr. Tempel will chair 'Public Information & Technology. ERI needs a chairperson. The commission approved all other current chairpeople. Our by-laws state each SPEC member must chair a committee.

The Mayor & Council appointed Pete Smith as Council Liaison. Rich Houghton and Brian Bythell will remain as dual Planning Board liaisons.

5. SET SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The meetings will remain the second Wednesday of each month.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The reorganization meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

South Plainfield Environmental Commission
Official Minutes
Regular Meeting - January 8, 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 8:21 pm.

Present: Dorothy Miele, Tom Walsh, Debra Leporino, Danielle Hurst, John Ferguson, Adam Butrico, Pete Smith (council liaison) and Rich Houghton (planning board liaison)

Alternate members present: Jordan Mandel

Associate members present: Lisa Roseo (secretary)

Others: Dr. Tempel (environmental specialist)

Absent: Nicole Esposito (Alt II)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The regular minutes for the December 11, 2019 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. Tempel

- O&E (FY2019) (\$2,375) Since the last meeting we spent \$0. YTD spent = \$599.75. The balance = \$1,775.25. That is the end of FY2019.
- The FY2020 temporary budget = \$500.
- Clean Communities - 2019 grant (\$50,329.53) Since the last meeting we spent: \$455 on sign/litter enforcement salary & wages. YTD spent = \$16,437.10. Balance = \$33,892.13.
- Signs Trust Fund – Spent \$0. Deposits \$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

- Pete said he is looking forward to working with SPEC membership. He intends to focus on a couple projects that he would like to see in town. He wants to push for sustainable energy in South Plainfield. The Mayor & Council will be looking into building a solar farm, possibly on the privately-owned parcel that is proposed for development on New Market Avenue. The property is almost 70% wetlands & flood zone. Development is unlikely. The Mayor & Council will talk to the County and State about grant funding to purchase a piece of land. Pete has already been in contact with PSE&G; the transmission lines along the RR tracks are fine. We will need to discuss who will buy the energy. Pete said he would like to see the Board of Education buy the energy to cut their electric cost. The layout of the New Market Avenue property would produce enough energy to power all our schools. Pete would also like to see improvements to Walnut Street Park. He is talking with a few organizations to help

revitalize and fund the project. Dr. Tempel asked what the proposal is. Pete explained there is no signage or easy access from Walnut Street into the park. He wants to add a sign and a clear safe path. Pete will try and apply for an 'ENF' impact grant offered through the Elks Lodge.

- Pete said he is in favor of pursuing open space funding for the Longwood Estates off of Park Avenue that the commission has proposed in the past.

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

- Rich said the Crossroads @ Durham plan was approved. The storm / sanitary sewer line studies still have to be determined; construction will have to halt if improvements need to be made.

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

- Glopack (132 Case Dr.) - Jordan and Adam looked at the site. Jordan said the applicant proposes to subdivide the lot and build a warehouse with office space on the new lot. They will remove the current solar farm and rebuild a more efficient system on the roof of the warehouse. The biggest concern is the increase in impervious surface. There are no trees on the property. Their landscaping plan is sufficient. They are proposing a small vegetated detention basin. They provided an EIS. It states their detention basin will discharge pre-treated storm water to a grass swale. SPEC will ask for 'No Idling' signs near the loading docks.
- Bridgepoint (602 New Market) - (revised) Proposing a 189,000 sq. ft. warehouse. Adam said the perc test was removed from the application. There will be a pond within the detention basin which is designed to slow storm water discharge as well as increase water quality. The applicant maintains there will be no significant impact to traffic. The following is a list of the concerns we submitted previously that they have addressed:
 - they have provided a recycling plan; Jordan read the narrative.
 - pond is a biological treatment: Dr. Tempel explained the micro-organisms will eat the organic pollutants. Dr. Tempel did question their engineer about how the pond would function in a 100 year flood.
 - provided a tree removal / replacement plan: the plan is based on an area average. The proposed species replacement plan is acceptable. There won't be room to plant the number of trees required. Adam mentioned the densest tree area will be untouched. Included is a letter that states they revised their traffic study in November. Jordan and Adam said the plan isn't included with these documents. Dr. Tempel will ask the Planning Board secretary if she is in possession of it.
- All-Seasons Sports Academy - (Hamilton Blvd) - (revised) Proposing to add two playing fields and parking. They are very short on the number of required parking spaces. They propose to add 35 additional spaces to the existing 120. The ordinance requires 302; 51% of what is required. Which means at higher capacity use, cars will be parked all around the area. With a four-lane high traffic road, people may be crossing a street with no crosswalks. Their tree removal / replacement plan says 26 trees to be removed and 21 proposed to be planted. Impervious surface is increasing by 5%. The plan shows storm water runoff on the fields will flow into perforated piping. Our Boro engineer will review. Their solid waste plan is not mentioned.

D. ERI -

- There was nothing new to report.

E. Clean Communities - Dr. A. Tempel

- Scheduled a CCAB reorganization meeting for Wednesday, 1/29 @ 7:00 pm at Sherbans Diner.
- Debra reported that she and Dr. Tempel have been working on Adopt-a-Spot renewal agreements. There will be a few changes e.g. - going paperless and asking for quarterly renewals. We will be establishing a CBA email address through the Boro website.
- Dr. Tempel reported that Kevin Kober cleared 186 storm drains and picked up 12 bags of litter and 790 lbs. of heavy debris. He also removed 54 lawn signs and 11 pole signs.

- Dave Street performed two Clean Communities presentations in the High School yesterday.
- Scheduled the Spring Volunteer Litter Cleanup for April 18.

F. Land Use - Dr. A. Tempel

- Dr. Tempel said we received notice of application to fill isolated wetlands and a drainage swale on Texas Avenue (off Durham Ave.). This lot will potentially be developed.

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

- Community Forestry - Dr. Tempel said we will be participating in NJDEP's free tree seedling program. Dr. Tempel spoke with Joe Scudato, Junior Baseball Commissioner, about setting up a distribution event at Opening Day. Joe was enthusiastic and will promote the event with his opening day publicity. Kathleen Benton's High School Environmental Science Club volunteered to distribute the seedlings.
- As previously mentioned, Dorothy explained every town in New Jersey will be receiving one 'Salem Oak' sapling for planting. The 600 year old oak had been growing on a Quaker meeting house property for generations. Dorothy suggested planting our seedling at the new community pool site that was also a former Quaker meeting site in 1732. It would fit nicely into any publicity that the NJDEP or Arbor Day Foundation might be doing. We will reach out to the Recreation Dept. to ensure a safe and protected location.

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 new to report.

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

- Adam said there is nothing new to report.

K. Green Team - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom said there will be meeting on 1/22 @ 5:00.
- Tom said he helped Kathleen in setting up the High School greenhouse.
- Dr. Tempel said the Green Team is at a point where we need to document our activities by uploading actions to Sustainable NJ. This needs to be completed by June.
- Adam mentioned he has information on a product called the Green Cone Solar Composter. The cone has a grate in the bottom and gets buried partially in the ground. It can hold up to five pounds of food waste a day and compost for up to three years. They can be purchased in bulk. Adam said it has been proven to be airtight; no odors or critter infiltration. Adam said he will purchase one to test in his backyard.

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

- Dr. Tempel reported SPEC's Facebook page carried 7 posts, two by Chris Cioffi, in December.

M. Stormwater Advisory Committee- Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom said there was nothing new to report.

N. Environmental Specialist - Dr. A. Tempel

- There was nothing additional to report.

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

- Dorothy had nothing to report.

6. INCOMING / OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

- A list of correspondences is attached.
- ANJEC dues - Dr. Tempel said we received the ANJEC renewal notice. \$375 for a 7-person commission; \$25 for each additional member. Right now we have two Associate members: Jim Schmidt

and Lisa Roseo plus our two Alternates. Tom asked to be mailed a hard copy, and Lisa asked for mailings via email. Membership can attend ANJEC workshops, webinars and courses for free. John Ferguson made a motion to accept, seconded by Danielle Hurst, all were in favor.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- Mentioned to Pete Smith that SPEC recently commented on two Boro proposed ordinances: bamboo ban and hazardous trees. We haven't heard back. Pete has not heard of this yet.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- John Ferguson said the County had their reorganization meeting yesterday. A new Freeholder was elected and some department heads have changed.
- John said he is receiving a lot of information from the State to urge awareness for cyber security due to the conflict in Iran.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2020 at 8:00 pm at Dorothy's Art Studio - 30 South Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield.

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 Management
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