

**TOWNSHIP OF EVESHAM
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES**

August 7, 2023

6:30 PM

Municipal Bldg.

Call to Order

Chairperson Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

Flag Salute

Statement of Conformance

This is a regular meeting of the Evesham Township Environment Commission. This meeting is compliant with the Open Public Meeting Act and other applicable laws of the State of New Jersey.

This Commission is advisory, and this meeting shall be conducted in an orderly manner. Any questions or comments will be limited to issues relevant to what the Commission may consider in reaching a decision in its advisory role.

Roll Call

Present: Higginbotham, Lieberman, Staff, DuCoin

Absent: Paone, Trotman, McCann

Also Present: Councilwoman Cooper, Councilman Freeman, Kevin Rijs Director of Community Development, Terri Bracchi, Recording Secretary.

Old Business

1. Sustainable Jersey Grant – will be discussed next meeting.
2. Environmental Commission logo – Lieberman
Saw a number of good ideas, will review, and discuss at next meeting
Suggested to discuss with Zane.
3. Green team & Environmental Commission Liaison - Lieberman
Bring to Vassallo.
4. Bee City USA affiliation, Xerces Society. – Kelly Heard
Get web site started, will maybe send template to next Council meeting, have resolution adopted and apply for grants.
5. National Night Out (NNO) 2023
Staff, Lieberman and Paone gave out brochures,

New Business

1. Tracy Woods discussed a new project, Sustainable Jersey Community Solar Resources.
Community solar is a path for electric utility customers, who cannot install solar panels on their own property to participate in both the environmental and cost-saving benefits of solar energy.

Municipalities can play a role in maximizing the benefits of community solar by offering community solar projects that best align with municipal goals.

2. 2023 EC Priorities & Site Plan Review Assignments.
Discussed next meeting site plans (major)
3. Friends of the Black Run Preserve – Taylor
Will provide a new liaison when decided
4. Proposed Poker Run tentative date 2024, April 13, 2024
5. Maintenance Manual -discuss with Community Development
6. Croft Farm- Higginbotham
Walking path not ready yet, still mowing
7. Attendance at Council meetings. Will discuss at next meeting.
8. Talk about EC accomplishments, DuCoin will report.
9. New Road trails- Higginbotham will be wood chip trails.
10. Stormwater Assistance Grant for \$25K for new mapping prepared by an engineer.
11. Brush Hollow Rain Garden – Steven Elliott , Pinelands Preservation Alliance, will help with the excavation, and advise how to maintain the rain garden.
12. There will be a new Watershed Ambassador, EC will be advised.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Liberman and seconded by DuCoin to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023 Meeting with additions.

Recorded Votes

Ayes: Higginbotham, Lieberman, Staff, DuCoin
Motion approved

Public Comment

Amy Gonzden – Working on a project in Marlton Lakes. The project is with the National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat Program.

Each homeowner to become a member of the Federation must submit a letter of support and a fee of \$25.00 for the registration.

Should be put on next month’s agenda.

Dr. Amy Golden – Sturbridge Lakes, Voorhees Township.

Pinelands wants to change zoning to Forest, 1700 acres left. Dr. Golden wants to change 170 lakes to Rural Growth Area.

This is a Voorhees problem.

Ila Vassallo – reviewed the Redevelopment Plan and wants to preserve properties.

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Riti Blunt's daughter Neha Blunt is a student at Evans School. She submitted a copy of a form to the Commission entitled #Watersavers, Information on "Save water and save money." This form shows **EVERY DROP COUNTS!!!**

Adjournment

A motion was made by DuCoin and seconded by Lieberman to adjourn meeting at 8:30 PM.

Recorded Votes

Ayes: Higginbotham, Lieberman, Staff, Ducoin

Approved by board

Terri Bracchi, Recording Secretary