

**TOWNSHIP OF EVESHAM
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES**

January 8, 2024

6:30 PM

Municipal Bldg.

Call to Order

Chairman Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Flag Salute

Statement of Conformance with the Open Public Meetings Act

This is a regular meeting of the Evesham Township Environmental 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, Gonzalez, Elliott (leave 7:20)

Absent: Epifano, Freeman, Paone

Also Present: Councilwoman Cooper, Rich Kerr Parks Department, Kevin Rijs Director of Community Development, Terri Bracchi Recording Secretary

Old Business

2024 Evesham Township Community Energy Plan (CEP): Township Planner, Heyer, Gruel & Associates. Online Survey can be completed until January 8, 2024.

Evesham Township, New Jersey – Evesham launches online survey to collect community input as township works to create Community Energy Plan (evesham-nj.org)

Richard Brevogel RVE, Municipal Engineer.

Showed the Commission video of Stormwater Municipal as "A"

2023 Open Space and Recreation (OSRP) was adopted following a Planning Board public hearing December 5th.

New Business

Guest Speaker: RVE Municipal Engineer representative, Richard Brevogel, MSA Stormwater; NJDEP Tree Removal/Replacement Ordinance & Privately-Owned Salt Storage Ordinance (due by May 1,2024 Tree Removal Ordinance – must be replaced- Salt Storage - cannot dump into parking lot, must be covered

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Kevin Rijs – more charges are coming to the Tree Ordinance.

Richard Kerr – Parks Department

Davis Rogers Croft Farm Property. Necessary and controlled invasive species. Proposed burn schedule Jan. – March 2024. Commissions input requested To be overseen by Township Open Space and Fire Department. State Forest Fire Service Standards and permit requirements to be met Higginbotham said this should be done by end of February , Commission approved.

Mike Staff

2024 Tree Giveaway (Community Tree Recovery – Arbor Day Foundation Program):

Grant application due January 26, 2024; proposed Giveaway date April 27, 2024, rain date April 28, 2024. Will be held at Laurel Oaks Landscaping, 500 trees will be requested.

Gonzalez – opportunity for education for the trees.

Kevin Rijs – Pinelands also have information on trees.

2024 Green Acres Stewardship Grant Application, due February 7, 2024. Beagle Club invasive Species removal and trail improvement.

Kevin Rijs – has 2 years to do. Letter of interpretation takes one year.

Sustainable Jersey Grant application PSEG 2024. Offset Black Run Preserve – PC/MOA.

Application due February 9, 2024.

Bee City – Kelly Heard.

Meeting on 2nd Thursday each month, Also met with the grant writers.

Ila Vassallo – Green Team

Meets at the township building, Earth Day is April 9.

Working on a Sustainable NJ grant,

Correspondence and Minutes

A motion by DuCoin and seconded by Lieberman to approve the minutes of December 4, 2023.

Motion approved by Commission.

Public Comment

Rich Taylor – Black Run Preserve – January 20 there will be a Maple Tree Tapping,

R. Bernardi – spoke

Meeting Adjourned 8:20 PM.

Approved by Board

February 5, 2024

Terri Bracchi , Recording Sec.

Terri Bracchi