

**TOWNSHIP OF EVESHAM
EVESHAM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES**

April 8, 2024

6:30 PM

Municipal Building

Call To Order

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

Flag Salute

Statement of Conformance with Open Public Meetings Act

This is a regular meeting with 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, DuCoin, Gonzalez, Elliott

Absent: Paone, Staff

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

Old Business

2024 Poker Run, Black Run Preserve. Saturday, April 13, 2024 (Rain Date 4/27/24). Invitation from FBRP to the Environmental Commission to have a table at the Event.

Higginbotham & Lieberman have paperwork, will be there, Kevin has the tablecloth. Kevin thanked the BRP for their work.

Black Run Preserve (PPA-FBRP-Twp) – “The Process for considering an Intergovernmental Agreement”. April 12 Pinelands Commission meeting. Update.

Pinelands will work with the Township; it took 1 year to submit the update. Letter dated September 27, 2023. Maps give a lot of information of the 700 acres. Most of the park is in the wetlands, it shows bridge, parking lots and child enhancement ADA.

John Volpe of the BRP gave an update, talked about trails, a control burns and a number of camp fires in the park. Dirt bikes over run the trails, there is existing trails no new trails.

The Township realizes the benefits of the Black Run Preserve.

Kevin Rijs showed updated maps to group.

Councilwoman Cooper talked about Aerohaven, how to mitigate the problems?

Higginbotham – 107 acres, will look into Park Rangers for the Park.

Rich Kerr will need to create a path for the horses.

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John Volpe – applied for a nature and veterans restoration grant. Mr. Volpe is stepping off the board.

2024 Tree Giveaway (Community Tree Recovery – Arbor Day Foundation Program)
Proposed Giveaway date April 27, 2024 at Laurel Oaks. Rain date April 28, 2024 Laurel Oaks or The Gibson House (Earth Day).

2023 Environmental Commission Annual Report. Lieberman, will present report to board at next meeting.

2024 Environmental Commission Goals and Objectives.
Steven Elliott – has a lot of issues and native plantings to add to Goals and Objectives.

2024 Xerces Pollinator Kit Program giveaway grant. Township approved location; Cambridge Park. Township did not get the grant. Steven Elliott did a new grant.

New Business

Bee Subcommittee need a leader. Melanie Branca looking for information about pollinator subcommittee.

Steven Elliott, do we want to bring members into the group?

Cooper do an outreach program in schools and Environmental Commission.
Kevin Rijs – primary goal of Bee City?

ANJEC 2024 Open Space Stewardship Grant \$1,500. Application due April 26, 2024.

ANJEC Evesham Environmental Commission letter of support for ANJEC to apply for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant for the Rancocas Watershed.
See Memo dated March 15, 2024 from Chairman Higginbotham.

EEC liaison to ANJEC.
Tabled to next meeting

Black Run Preserve, "Trails & Potholes"
a. Park management and maintenance.

Rich Kerr – they are not potholes there, they are natural depressions. He reviewed the maps and explained the problem.

Turtle/Wildlife warning signs. Tomlinson Mill Rd.
Tabled.

Correspondence and Minutes & Memorialization of Decisions.

A motion was made by DuCoin and seconded by Higginbotham to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting.

Approved by board

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Kevin Rijs talked to Medford Township regarding planting of trees in both Townships; Pinelands will oversee.

Cooper relayed information from Cherokee student Katelin Abdallah to the Commission.

Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.
Approved by Commission

May 6, 2024

Approved by Board

Terri Bracchi, Rec. Sec.

Terri Bracchi, Recording Secretary