

DENNIS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes: September 17, 2014.

Regularly scheduled meeting held at 5:30 p.m. at Dennis Township Municipal Building.

Chairman Bob Penrose led the flag salute to open the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: George, Hoff, Leatherwood, McManus, Penrose, Rebmann, Rosenthal,

ABSENT: Slotterback

The committee voted to approve the minutes of the August meeting and Mr. Rebmann will contact the webmaster to have those minutes posted to the township website for public consumption.

The commission offered its congratulations to member Cindy Leatherwood who recently earned a runner-up award in selection of a New Jersey Teacher of the Year.

There were no guest speakers scheduled.

Mr. Rebmann reported on the upcoming September Land Use Board meeting concerning a number of applications including ARC of Cape May's application to hold weddings and fund raising events at its property, the historic Falkinburg House on Route 47 in South Dennis. Mr. Rebmann noted that the applicant was not asking to build at the site. The board's concerns included the size of the events to be held, hours of operation, food and beverage handling, waste disposal, parking, noise were addressed prior to the vote. Two other applications, both for business storage facilities posed no issues of concern to the commission although Mr. Rebmann did ascertain that no fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides would be stored at the garage to be built at Ocean View Campground. However, fertilizers will be stored at the other garage approved for the South Gate Golf Course.

Under new business, Ms. Leatherwood responded to the item on the August meeting agenda concerning developing a commission newsletter. In lieu of (or in addition to) a newsletter, she proposed developing a Facebook page and utilize Internet to communicate with the public, including the local school, about the goals and efforts of the commission.

"We should utilize Twitter, Instagram and other available communications technologies to get our message out," she advised the commission.

Ms Leatherwood offered to work on the idea in the near future and will report on her progress at the October commission meeting. She will also initially reach out to fellow commissioners for content ideas for a Facebook page.

Rebmann added the possibility of developing a newsletter to be released periodically (1-2 times per year) for the benefit of those members of the community who do not utilize electronic communications technology. Such a newsletter would be print with availability also on the township website/

Ms George, Chairman Penrose, and Township Assistant Public Works Supervisor Vern Champion were named to attend the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation training session on October 25 in Cherry Hill. Mr. Rebmann has prepared and submitted vouchers for the three (subsequently approved). This training will enable the township to remain qualified as compliant with guidelines established by the Federation.

With an eye to the commission's budgetary constraints, Mr. Penrose suggested checking with the township to see if payment for Mr. Champion's training could be made from the public works account.

Moving on to ongoing efforts to restore the natural garden at the municipal complex, Mr. Rebmann reported that Tuckahoe Nurseries has offered to donate plants. Mr. Rebmann is developing a list of plants suggested by commission members and will forward this to Tuckahoe before the end of September.

Mr. McManus suggested setting a "work day" to clear areas in the garden for planting. Mr. Penrose asked if soil tests would be needed. Mr. McManus indicated that testing wouldn't be necessary. He further indicated that any mulching/planting being considered should be done before November. He asked if Jo Ann Sopchak (Horticulture teacher at Cape May Tech) is "still interested" in helping with the garden. Mr. Rebmann said that he has been in touch with her and she is scheduled to appear at the October 15 commission meeting.

Commission members will decide upon a get together date for work at the garden.

Ms. Leatherwood reported that recycling efforts at the school are improving. Clear plastic bags are now being used in classrooms, allowing users to see what they are throwing into the separate receptacles. She added that there are not as yet recycling buckets in the teachers' lounge.

Mr. Penrose suggested contacting Public Works to see if they could provide a few.

Ms. George asked that corrections/deletions be made to the township web page regarding the Environmental Commission.

Specifically she asked that the section about the Natural Resources Committee be removed as its presence on the site might confuse readers into thinking it still existed. She also asked if it was necessary to carry the minutes from the former Environmental Commission and suggested that it might be clearer to start with the reinstatement of the

commission in 2014 while dropping the reference to the previous ordinance that ended that body.

Mr. Rebmann will look into whether there is a requirement to maintain such records for any period of time and, if not, will contact the Site Administrator to remove the items in question.

Mr. Rebmann, Ms. George, and Mr. Rosenthal will set a meeting to discuss revisions/updates to the township's Community Forestry Management Plan. The current plan expires this year and the commission had decided to try to develop an updated Plan in house in order to save money as the potential cost of hiring a professional to do the work could be as high as \$3000.

Mr. Rosenthal noted that it wouldn't hurt to try to do it ourselves. Even if the state doesn't accept the in house effort, the commission would learn what exactly was needed and a good faith effort would at least be helpful in requesting funds from Township Committee if needed.

The Outdoor Wood Boiler Ordinance developed by the commission was discussed during the open segment of the meeting. Primarily, members wanted to know the status of the ordinance. At this point, the matter had been tabled by Township Committee with no definite date for deciding in the near future. Mr. Penrose pointed out that Township Solicitor Jeff April has the ordinance along with information he'd provided.

Discussion was held about requesting a meeting with committee to present the information the commission has gathered and to learn what, if anything, will be done next.

There being no other business or public comment, Mr. Penrose motioned to adjourn the meeting.