

# TOWNSHIP OF DENNIS

## Environmental Commission Meeting

Wednesday March 22, 2017

Call to order was made by Chairman Bob Penrose at 5:30pm.

Chairman Penrose lead the Pledge of Allegiance

Present:       Castor  
                  George  
                  Herlihy  
                  Hoff (alt #1) Absent  
                  Penrose  
                  Rosenthal  
                  Slotterback  
                  Turner

We welcomed the soon to be newest member to the Commission Debbie Hope as alternate member #2! Once sworn in she will be added to the Environmental Commission roster.

### **Approval of minutes:**

Previous meeting: *February 22, 2017* A motion was made by Scott Turner, to accept the minutes with corrections and was seconded by Jim Herlihy. Bob Penrose abstained, the rest of the members present were in favor; motion so passed.

### **Correspondence:**

Sue Slotterback reached out to Pat Sutton who in turn forward several wonderful resources for our reference. Pat has published several pieces about native plants, backyard habitats, pollinator garden, etc. and is a marvelous source of information.

Sue suggested that a formal letter from the Commission thanking and confirming authorization to post her work on the website. Discussion then revolved around gardens in the area that are of particular interest such as Gordon Engles' in Dennisville.

### **Other correspondence:**

Received from Applicant Charles E. Crossan, regarding 560/566 Corson Tavern Rd., Block 226 Lot 43.01 & 43.02. The letter reflects his "Freshwater Wetlands Application Checklist" to the NJDEP for a "Letter of Interpretation" establishing the Wetlands delineation, if any, on the subject property.

Received from State of New Jersey, The Pinelands Commission regarding Block 31 Lot 1.03, Notification of Review of Local Agency Approval – Determination: Consistent – Approval May Take Effect.

Received from ANJEC notice regarding 2017 ANJEC grants available for Open Space Stewardship Projects.

### **Consolidate Land Use Board Applications:**

Scott Turner had to recuse himself from the application for the PHILTRICH, LLC c/o Bluewater Welding and Fabrication on Route 47, Block 64, Lot 30. As a result, Chris Castor, representing the Environmental Commission, will attend the next Board meeting tomorrow, Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, to ask questions and address the concerns (detailed in previous meetings) the Commission has regarding this application.

The following application was not received by the Commission: The Evans property on Woodbine Ave., Block 35 lot 1.01 application for subdivision to build single family homes. Scott Turner, crossover member to the Board, had his Board member copy of the application which was reviewed by the Commission.

There was concern about why the Commission is not receiving the applications, application updated survey, in a timely manner or not at all.

### **New Business:**

Chris Castor in the effort to boost community involvement suggested rolling out a quarterly photo contest open to all Dennis Township residents. Pictures must be taken in Dennis Township. Chris explained that Instagram would probably be the right platform for this venture. Facebook may also work and worth considering as well. The winner would be determined by the number of likes a picture receives. Jalma Farms to offer small token gift of jam to winner.

Chris also shared his vision for a Volunteer Fruit and Vegetable Garden. This idea arose after learning about our high percentage of children in Dennis Township needing food assistance. An edible Community Garden from spring through harvesting would be of great benefit. It would provide access to the garden for picking by Dennis Township residents. This undertaking is a lot of work and will require volunteers. A site would need to be identified and would need to be on public property. The site would need full sun and access to water. Perhaps one of the school properties such as the Hagen Road School.

Chris confirmed our new email address DennisTwpEC@Gmail.com and should be posted on the DTEC website.

### **Ongoing/Old Business**

The Annual Community Forestry Program Accomplishment Report was presented.

Sue Slotterback moved to accept the Report, with corrections, Brad Rosenthal second the motion. All were in favor; motion so passed.

NJ Tree Recovery Program – free seedling giveaway. The 1000 seedlings will be available for pickup in Woodbine on Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>. Alma George is taking responsibility for picking up and storing the seedlings. Our first distribution event will be at the Old School House Museum on Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> from 9am to 1pm. The next event will be the following Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> at the same location.

Reviewed Flyer announcing the events. Alma to send copy to Lisa Salimbene for distribution at the school.

**Public Comments:**

Lisa Salimbene announced that on April 25<sup>th</sup> the Primary School will be having a mini Earth Day Celebration. She is looking for a Commission member to judge the recycling art contest.

Lisa also brought up the Carpenter Bees situation. The Township is hiring a professional to apply pesticides to the Township Buildings. The contract is out for bid. Discussions revolved around what pesticides would most likely be non-discriminate, the importance of our pollinators, the danger in the exposure to humans of these very toxic chemicals and alternative methods of handling the problem. It was suggested that a letter be drafted by the Commission, to be sent to the Township Mayor and Committee, regarding alternatives to spraying pesticides.

A motion was made by Jim Herlihy to have the Secretary, Alma George draft a letter. Scott Turner 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor; motion so passed.

**Member Observations/Comments:** None

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Herlihy and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brad Rosenthal. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned 7:15