



JULY 7 Dennis Township Environmental Commission Meeting MINUTES

This ZOOM meeting was set up by Dennis Township Committee member Scott Turner.

Present at the meeting in addition to Scott Turner were: Bob Penrose (Chairman), Justin Turner (Vice-Chairman), James Herlihy, Ray Rebmann. Members Brad Rosenthal, Lisa Salimbene, and Sue Slotterback were absent.

Following roll call, members approved minutes from the June meeting. These will be forwarded for posting on the township website.

Mr. Penrose indicated that there was no correspondence.

Mr. Penrose, crossover to the Land Use Board, brought members up to date on that board's recent activities. These include a subdivision approval for a property on Kings Highway, where the applicant is renovating existing homes. The board had expressed concerns about "wetlands and seasonal creek on the property. These are not affected by the applicant's current application.

Also, applicant Wojcik, owner of the former Collins Lumber Yard in South Seaville applied to build a six foot fence around a portion of the property bordering a new subdivision. Mr. Penrose indicated this was approved with modifications to allow a six gap on bottom to allow wildlife (e.g. turtles) unobstructed passage.

A third applicant concerned a minor subdivision of property on Church Lane where a previous home structure was demolished. This application did not include proposal to build.

Mr. Penrose also mentioned a new application for Zappy Craft Brewery for Ocean View Road and Route 9. A brewery is not an “approved” use for that location so the applicant will need a variance. Mr. Penrose indicated that the application was withdrawn and may be resubmitted for a future date.

Moving on, the board discussed the status of the garden at the municipal complex in Dennisville. Mr. Penrose indicated a need to further identify plant species on site and suggested asking Dennisville resident Gordon Engle who has some expertise in this area, to help. Mr. Engel had previously expressed willingness to do so.

The board will reach out to him to ask for that assistance.

Mr. Turner led a discussion about his draft of a balloon ordinance for the township. This could eventually lead to development of an ordinance banning the use of plastic bags in the township. But Mr. Turner, members agreeing, suggested that an ordinance banning the release of balloons, might be a good way to start toward that possible goal. At this stage, the commission agreed that it is essential to solicit opinion from the township committee and the general public on the subject.

Mr. Turner indicated that members should send comments/suggestions to him individually after which the commission could approach the township committee for possible action. Mr. Herlihy agreed that this was a good strategy and commended Mr. Turner’s work on the draft.

Under new business, Mr. Rebmann asked about sending a congratulatory letter to a township student who recently won a statewide environmental art contest. Mr. Herlihy asked if the township receives any information (list of names) from the school of students who have won special community awards. Scott Turner indicated in the negative. Members agreed that the idea of sending a letter was worth considering. Mr. Rebmann will send a draft he’s prepared to members for consideration at the next meetings.

Justin Turner asked about National Night Out. Scott Turner indicated that there had been no formal action taken by the township committee and that, if there is such an event this year, there likely would be no games or vendors, perhaps a band and fireworks. But NO action has been taken.

There being no other business, Mr. Penrose closed the meeting.