



Morristown Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

April 5, 2016

7:30pm Meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Commissioners Present:

Maureen Denman, Chair

Richard Isleib

Nathan Umbriac, Treasurer

Steve Pylypchuk, Secretary, Vice Chair

Priscilla Grigas, 1st Alternate

Michelle Dupree-Harris (Town Council Liaison)

Commissioners Excused:

Robert Parker

Justin Davis, 2nd Alternate

Public Session:

Marc Baumann (Morristown Resident)

7:40pm: Meeting called to order by Chair Denman

1. **Roll Call**
2. **MEC Business:** Jennifer Coglon has resigned due to personal reasons. She has requested to stay involved as a volunteer.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2016 regular meeting. Motion passed by unanimous vote by acclamation. Mayor Dougherty will appoint a replacement commissioner shortly and is in contact with members of the Planning Board to serve on the Environmental Commission.
4. **Open Public Session:** Marc Baumann of 44 Prospect Street, Morristown. Mr. Baumann had no specific concern to bring to the Environmental Commission's - here as observer.
5. **Sustainable Morristown Liaison:** Chair Denman has appointed Commissioner Nathan Umbriac to serve as the MEC Liaison to Sustainable Morristown to support ongoing efforts and the Sustainable Jersey Certification.
6. **Finances:** Treasurer Richard Isleib stated the current and expected expenditures to date. Chair Denman requested a spreadsheet be created to assist the Commission in planning future events.
7. **Planning Board:** Chair Denman attempted to have Town Planner Phil Abramson to attend this meeting to discuss the MEC's role with the planning board going forward but was unavailable. Mr. Abramson requested the MEC consider rescheduling the May meeting to accommodate his schedule. After some discussion, it was decided that the next meeting will be May 11, 2016 at 7:30pm.



- 8. Foote's Pond:** Councilwoman Dupree-Harris briefed the MEC regarding the Town Council meeting regarding Foote's Pond. She stated that the Council is considering providing a budget item for dredging the pond. She also stated that the Council is looking for an answer regarding why the pond is filling in to begin with. Commissioner Isleib stated that Princeton Hydro had previously done a study on the pond approximately 6 years ago regarding sedimentation. Chair Denman confirmed that the report existed & can be found on the town website. She in was informed about a local environmental engineer - Justin Protasiewicz by Phil Abramson, the Town Planner and who is an environmental engineer and suggested perhaps using his expertise to advise the MEC.
 - 9. Board of Adjustment:** Chair Denman informed the commissioners of the application pending for 42 Spring Street in front of the board for 22 residential and alternative parking. This is part of the second phase of the Speedwell Redevelopment. Application includes stormwater report, EIS waiver, soil conservation and district application, wetlands and open water assessment. Discussions regarding the application and its impacts to the surrounding area including trees, adjacent slope and graveyard proceeded.
 - 10. ANJEC Certifications:** Four Commissioners, Justin Davis, Nathan Umbriac, Priscilla Grigas and Steve Pylypchuk attended the ANJEC Certification course held in Morristown in March. Councilwoman Dupree-Harris was unable to attend due to illness.
 - 11. MEC Bylaws:** No report.
 - 12. Grant Committee:** Commissioners Umbriac and Davis identified a list of potential grants for the MEC to consider which included ANJEC Grants, which deadline already passed for 2016, Dodge Foundation and Lowe's Home Improvement, which provides gift cards for supplies. Chair Denman gave a history of previous grant applications.
 - 13. Kleitman Property:** Chair Denman stated that the MEC will be responsible for raising the funds to complete the grading on the property, contrary to what was previously believed. She met with the Town Engineering Dept and the earliest the grading could begin is Spring 2017. Chair Denman also stated that the current design plans do not provide enough information for the Town Engineer so they will be working with the Town Planner to complete the plan prior to next Spring.
- Commissioner Umbriac also presented preliminary ideas for signage, including structures and hardscape items around the sign. Chair Denman suggested meeting with the neighborhood to present the ideas and solicit input. Due to the remaining work to be done on the property, it was agreed that this is not a pressing issue.
- 14. Clean Communities:** Townwide Cleanup on April 23 at 9am. MEC will defer to the organizers regarding going out as group or distributing throughout the other groups. MEC members will wear their black MEC baseball hats to identify themselves as members of the commission.
 - 15. Alexander Hamilton Gardens:** Chair Denman will take over the lead on the project due to the resignation of Commission Coglon. Commissioner Pylypchuk will assist. Chair Denman will meet with Ms. Coglon to debrief regarding current progress and future plans. Councilwoman Dupree-Harris



suggested contacting Alfred Vail School as they currently have a very successful garden and could be a valuable resource. Commissioner Isleib also volunteered to assist.

- 16. Rain Barrels:** No update. Chair Denman reached out to the Madison Environmental Commission, which has a successful rain barrel program, for assistance. So far, she has been unable to make any progress. She also is considering Rutgers and Cranford as possible resources.
- 17. Green Business Directory:** Chair Denman noticed on Cranford Environmental Commission's website that they maintain a "Green Business Directory". She asked if this is something the MEC would be interested in taking on. The commissioners agreed that it would be valuable. Commissioner Grigas volunteered to take on the task of researching such a program.
- 18. Water Restrictions:** Commissioner Isleib stated that there are sample ordinances available to begin to customize for Morristown's needs. He also asked if Mayor Dougherty is in support of this effort. Chair Denman stated that she will contact the Mayor to confirm his support. Commissioner Pylypchuk stated that ANJEC also has sample ordinances available.
- 19. Open Space Plan:** No report
- 20. Meeting with other towns:** Commissioner Pylypchuk stated that at the ANJEC training, a member of the Morris Township Environmental Commission approached him about working together on future projects.
- 21. Morristown Environmental Commission Website:** Commissioner Pylypchuk presented the MEC Website Proposal. Commissioner Grigas motioned to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by acclamation.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 pm.

Next meeting SPECIAL DATE: Wednesday, May 11, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Pylypchuk, Secretary, Vice Chair