Morristown Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting
July 2, 2019
7:30pm Meeting
Morristown Town Hall

Commissioners Present:
Maureen Denman, Chair
Steve Pylypchuk
Don Ginsberg
Priscilla Grigas
Nathan Umbriac
Councilwoman Alison Deeb (Council Liaison)

Guests:
Councilman Stefan Armington

7:32pm: Meeting called to order by Chair Denman

Roll Call
Approval of Minutes: Motion made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the June, 2019 regular meeting with two typo corrections. Motion passed by unanimous vote by acclamation

New Business:

POCAHONTAS LAKE
- Chair Denman had met with the Jillian Barrick regarding MEC’s desire to investigate creating a bike path along Pocahontas Lake. Ms Barrick informed the MEC about a Federal grant awarded Morris County Parks to do so already and suggested Chair Denman contact Councilman Stefan Armington who has been actively involved in the project from the onset.

- Councilman Stefan Armington provided the MEC with a brief overview of the history on the grant for the Greater Morristown Greenway along Patriots Path Speedwell to Martin Luther King to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety along the parcel of Patriot’s Path within the Town of Morristown. The project started in 2016 and the County Parks received a federal grant for construction. The project also requires an easement from NJ Transit to traverse their property, adjacent to the Morris & Essex line tracks. Currently, a property survey is needed to establish the easement language for the project to move forward. Denise Chaplick from Morris County Parks Commission has been unable to engage NJ Transit’s approval for construction of a fence and trail within their property (this is pending finalizing of an easement agreement) to obtain the necessary Environmental permits are required.

- Chair Denman will reach out to contact at NJ TRANSIT to investigate ways the MEC can help facilitate the project. Chair Denman discussed the trail cameras with the Administration and has their initial support. The MEC and Administration will work together to figure out the logistics. Commissioner Umbriac and Pylypchuk volunteered to maintain flashdrive for recording of activity along the easement site adjacent to Patriots Path owned by NJ Transit
Office of the Mayor & Business Administrator

- Foote’s Pond
  - Chair Denman gave a brief status update on Foote’s Pond. Solitude Lake Management has submitted their first bathymetric report. The Town Engineer and Business Administrator are reviewing and is receiving a second opinion on the report.
  - The MEC received complaints of plants being trimmed and the clippings left on the trails. Chair Denman will investigate and follow up with the appropriate party.

- Mayor’s 3rd Annual Lakeside Cleanup
  - Future cleanups will move to the fall due to poison ivy and ticks encountered during the June cleanup.

Council Liaison Report

- Councilwoman Deeb provided a brief overview of the M-Station proposal along Morris Ave and Spring St. and also thanked the MEC for the progress at Foote’s Pond.

Ongoing Business

- Board of Adjustment - No application for MEC review before the BOA
- Planning Board – No updates

Meeting Adjourned 8:42 pm

Next meeting August 6, 2019 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Pylypchuk