



## **Morristown Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes**

### **Regular Meeting**

March 8, 2016

7:30pm meeting, Senior Center

Morristown Town Hall

### **Commissioners Present:**

Maureen Denman, Chair

Robert Parker

Richard Isleib

Nathan Umbriac

Steve Pylypchuk, Vice Chair & Secretary

Priscilla Grigas, 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

Justin Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate

### **Commissioners Excused:**

Jennifer Coglon

### **Absent:**

Michelle Dupree-Harris (Town Council Liaison)

### **Guests:**

Paul Miller (Sustainable Morristown Founder)

Marc Baumann (Morristown Resident)

**7:38pm:** Meeting called to order by Chair Denman

#### **1. Roll Call**

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2016 regular meeting. Motion passed by unanimous vote by acclamation.

**3. Open Public Session:** Marc Baumann of 44 Prospect Street, Morristown introduced himself as a citizen with environmental background and interest in town proceedings. Mr. Baumann had no specific concern to bring to the Environmental Commission's attention but requested to stay and observe the meeting.

**4. Sustainable Morristown Presentation:** Paul Miller, former president of Sustainable Morristown, gave a presentation about the organization. Sustainable Morristown is looking to collaborate with the Morristown Environmental Commission for Sustainable Jersey Re-certification in 2017. Mr. Miller explained that Morristown is currently certified at the Bronze level and their goal is to either re-certify at Bronze or Silver if possible. He further explained that as part of the re-certification requirements involve action items and input from the town administration, hence the request for collaboration. Discussions continued regarding Sustainable Morristown's activities and involvements in town. Chair Denman asked for a volunteer from the Commission to serve as the Sustainable Morristown Liaison.



Commissioner Coglion previously expressed interest and Commissioner Umbriac also volunteered. Chair Denman will talk to both before the next meeting and appoint one to the position.

## 5. Ongoing Business

- a. **Board of Adjustment** - One current appeal, 70 Maple Ave, before the Board of Adjustment with environmental impacts. Impacts are to wetland transition area and application addresses NJDEP requirements.
- b. **Planning Board** - No current applications of interest
- c. **ANJEC Workshops** - Chair Denman stated that the ANJEC Workshops for Environmental Commissioner Training are upcoming in March for new commissioners. She reiterated that all commissioners must be certified and failure to do so may impact appointment to commission.
- d. **MEC Bylaws** - Chair Denman met with the Town Attorney, Vij Pawar. Although they were able to have preliminary discussions, they will reconvene at a later date. Chair Denman will continue to work with Mr. Pawar regarding the MEC Bylaws.
- e. **Kleitman Property** - Chair Denman met with Town Administrator, Jillian Barrick, and debriefed her on the project and asked for her authorization regarding the sign to be placed on the Kleitman Open Space Property. Ms. Barrick gave approval for a 36"x24" sign. Commissioner Umbriac volunteered to donate his time to make the sign out of wood. He will come up with a few designs and present them to the Commission at the next meeting.
- f. **ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant** - Chair Denman stated that she had received interest from Commissioner Umbriac regarding available grants from ANJEC. She explained that the application for the Open Space Stewardship Grant needed to be completed by the end of the week. She stated that she will meet with the part-time grant writer for the Town Catherine Kapura regarding this application. Chair Denman then proposed forming a Grant Committee and asked for volunteers. Commissioners Umbriac and Davis volunteered and were voted unanimously to the Grant Committee with Commissioner Davis chairing the committee.
- g. **Community Outreach** - Chair Denman stated that the annual Townwide Cleanup is scheduled for April 23 and that a MEC presence would be nice as part of the Commission's community outreach initiatives. Discussions continued regarding being able to identify Commissioners during events like this. It was decided that Chair Denman would procure baseball caps for the MEC commissioners for community outreach events.



**6. MEC 2016 Initiatives**

- a. MEC Website** - Chair Denman met with Ms. Barrick regarding the MEC website. Chair Denman explained that the MEC has to present a proposal for submission and approval by the Business Administrator for the website hosting fees. Commissioner Pylypchuk, as chair of the Website Committee, will prepare a proposal prior to the next meeting.
- b. Gardens at Alexander Hamilton School** - No report.
- c. Community Involvement** - In addition to the town cleanup discussed earlier, Paul Miller informed the MEC that Bethel AME Church is hosting a Whippany River cleanup. It was unclear when the event would be so Chair Denman will confirm the date and inform the Commission.
- d. Rain Barrels/Composter Sales** - Commissioner Umbriac discussed logistical issues in regards selling and storing the rain barrels and composters. He will discuss further and ideas going forward with Chair Denman and will report back at the next meeting.
- e. Water Restrictions** - The commission discussed revising the town's water restrictions ordinance for times of drought. Various ideas were discussed and it was agreed that although the town is not currently in a drought, the commission should investigate further. Discussions were tabled for a meeting in the future.
- f. Kleitman Property** - Chair Denman stated that Town Administrator Jillian Barrick has agreed to authorize the grading of the Kleitman property, which is the next step in the development of the Kleitman property.
- g. MEC Open Space Plan** - No report.

**7. Correspondence** - No correspondence.

**Meeting Adjourned 9:08pm**

Next meeting April 5. 7:30pm Conference Room #201

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Pylypchuk, Vice Chair & Secretary