

Lindsey Manzo (12/31/2024)	X	P									
Krista Parsons, Acting Clerk	X	X									

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Erica Johanson’s beet presentation will be presented in March. Under special discussions, Alison Castellano will discuss the Environmental Commission’s future handling of the Roadside Cleanup as well as involvement in the Color Run.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The approval of the January 24th Reorganization Minutes was tabled to the next meeting due to a lack of a voting quorum.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A motion made by Chair Stetson, seconded by JD Groon to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Alison Castellano, Parks and Recreation Chair, was present for the special discussion.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

Park and Recreation Chair Alison Castellano proposed having the Environmental Commission handle the Roadside Cleanup, which the Commission has done in the past. The Recycling Committee has managed the cleanups for the past few years. Alison forwarded the required information to the Commission for review and advised of the setup and management of the cleanup.

- After discussion, the Commission agreed to handle the roadside cleanup moving forward. The roadside cleanup will be managed by the Environmental Commission in April.

Parks and Recreation Chair Alison Castellano inquired about the Environmental Commission’s proposed green fest. Previously, the commission discussed holding a green fest in 2022; however due to time and budget constraints, opted to redirect its efforts. The Parks and recreation department will be holding its Color Run on May 7th and Mrs. Castellano wanted to confirm whether or not the Environmental Commission would be interested in participating in some form. It was decided that the Commission would indeed participate in the Color Run with a table called “the Green Scene”.

- Secretary Kavchok will communicate with the Environmental Club and art department at East Amwell School regarding educational initiatives, as well as Raritan Headwaters, ANJEC and Sourland Conservancy for other pertinent initiatives for the “Green Scene”.

CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC

A motion made by Secretary Kavchok, seconded by Greg Chiacchio to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Sustainable Jersey: JD Groon provided information on the Tree Planting Management Plan action initiative. Part of the plan is establishing a Community Forest Management Plan.

Obtaining the CFMP requires East Amwell to hire an elected official and volunteer to do training. The plan, in final, would have to be approved by the State Forestry Commission. There are grants that would assist in this initiative through the state. It is a fairly heavy task, given the prerequisites alone. Chair Stetson advised that the Commission applied for Sustainable Jersey grants in hopes of kick-starting the CFMP effort, particularly in hiring a consultant to assist in writing the CFMP.

- JD has a contact who is familiar with the State Dept of Forestry Management to see about requirements for the CFMP. The Commission will look into the prerequisites for this year in hopes of applying for it next year.

Secretary Kavchok elaborated on the Community Education and Outreach action items advising that the Amwell Lake Cleanup would be 5 points, the Rain Barrel Workshop would be 5 points and the newsletter - in its final draft - would be another 5 points.

- Once completed, these items will be submitted to Sustainable Jersey for consideration and points.
- A rain barrel lesson will be held by Raritan Headwaters in May of 2022 at the Clawson Park Pavilion.
- The newsletter will be released by email in March.

DCFC Install Status: Secretary Kavchok elaborated on the status of the proposed DCFC install. The commission applied for a BPU grant in December which we are awaiting word on. The current Pays to Plug grant cycle is not conducive to East Amwell due to its location. Greg Chiacchio advised that there may be other options to entertain regarding electric vehicle charging within the township. Another issue is infrastructure, which East Amwell lacks. There are other options, such as battery banks. The utility could do the work and East Amwell could provide the space.

- Greg Chiacchio will research and advise on alternatives for electric vehicle charging in East Amwell.

Chair Stetson provided an update on the NJDEP/Arbor Day tree recovery application status which was submitted February 17th.

- Chair Stetson will follow up and once the tree saplings are in, they will be dispersed to residents accordingly.

Chair Stetson updated the Commission on Raritan Headwater's annual well testing for residents. The required documentation has been advertised on the township website and calendar and will be posted on facebook and a news flash closer to the date.

- Raritan Headwaters Well Testing will take place the week of April 4th - 8th, with evening pickup on April 5th and drop off of completed test kits the morning of April 11th.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Stetson requested to establish a site review subcommittee of the Commission which will consist of Chair Stetson and JD Groon .

Chair Stetson provided an update on the Sourland's tree planting initiative within East Amwell. Such initiative is in the planning stages and proposed lots have been discussed between the Commission and the Conservancy. Also, on an unfortunate note, the Sourlands does not satisfy the requirements as an Old Growth Forest due to human interference.

- A dialogue on tree plantings within East Amwell with the Sourland Conservancy is ongoing with the Conservancy

ORAL REPORTS

Planning Board - Chair Stetson has requested the Commission look at the proposed Master Plan which provides a vision for Ringoes revitalization. The Planning Board will have a hearing on said Plan on March 9th.

Parks & Recreation - Erica Johanson was not present to discuss. See above special discussions in re: the Commission's involvement with the Color Run.

FOSPC - No updates.

Township Committee Liaison - Mayor Castellano advised budget discussions are still ongoing.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

There were no vouchers for approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence is made available prior to the meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

It was noted for the record, there was no public in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by JD Groon, seconded by Secretary Kavchok to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Name, Title