

WTEAC Minutes September 24, 2020

Meeting opened under the Sunshine Law at 7:19 p.m.

Attendance (Roll Call) by Secretary Ellen Smith

Present: Chairperson Wilma Morrissey, Vice Chair John Ozell, Secretary Ellen Smith, Township Committeeman Tim Farrell, Joe Balesterri, Hance Sitkus and Scott Burke

Absent: Greg Wolek.

Motion for August Minutes. Motion: John Ozell 2nd: Wilma Morrissey

ANJEC 2020 Environmental Achievement Award – Results & Congress Meeting

John Ozell read the letter Wilma received prior to the meeting. The WTEAC won an Environmental Achievement Award! The Environmental Congress will be virtual this year. Awards will be presented on October 1st at 6PM. Sessions will happen Thursdays and Fridays in the month of October. The achievement award was for a series of environmental articles published in the “Wall Township Living” magazine.

State Plastic Pollution Reduction Legislation Update S.864/A1978, bans single-use carryout bags, ban polystyrene food ware items, and plastic straws only on request - On Sept. 24th the NJ Legislature passed the bill A1978/S864, now the strongest legislation in the country to reduce single-use plastics. The legislation passed the NJ Assembly 48-24-7 two hours ago and the Senate 25-13 less than an hour later. The legislation, which goes into effect in spring 2022, bans single-use plastic carryout bags and polystyrene foam food service ware, allows plastic straws on demand, and phases-out paper bags at large grocery stores

“Now, we can all look forward to picking-up less trash on our beaches and during Clean Ocean Action’s bi-annual Beach Sweeps. There will be less plastics in the ocean to cause harm and death to marine life,” said **Cindy Zipf, COA Executive Director.**

The bill now goes to the desk of Gov. Murphy, who has 45 days to act on the legislation. COA and ANJEC encourages citizens to call the Governor’s office at 609-292-6000 to urge him to sign A1978/S864, the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act.

Chairwoman Wilma Morrissey recommends **Environmental Photo Contest** (winter and spring environmental photos) - all attending members were in favor.

Open Space Position Paper - a work in progress. John Ozell thought the property at 5165 Belmar Blvd. would qualify since it is in the Airport Clear Zone. Hance Sitkus reported that Allaire State Park gained land from the McDowell property using Green acres money.

Waiting for Sustainable Jersey Recertification. (Mid-October) - We have more than 150 points

Wall Township Living article - future articles will possibly be about composting, rain barrels and/or bee friendly plants. .

Site Plans and Legal Notifications - At 4158 Dunroamin Rd. John Ozell reviewed the above-mentioned application. The following items should be considered: The requested variance for units 1 & 2 on the West side of the property will provide very little buffer between the building and Dunroamin Rd. There will be very little buffer between Units 1 & 2 and the property on the North side of the site. Any lighting located on the exterior of Units 1 & 2 may negatively impact the residence across the street with light pollution. Any increase in traffic along the site will also likely impact the residence with headlight pollution during early morning and evening operations. The site Limited Environmental Impact Statement (May 15, 2020) states, "The project site has no significant aesthetically pleasing attributes which are to be impacted by the application." In the opinion of the reviewer, the open grassy area located on the West side of the site, is aesthetically pleasing in its current state. The proposed plan will replace the grassy area with Units 1 & 2. The landscape buffering does not provide adequate shielding for the impact on neighboring properties.

Old Business, New Business - Joe Balesterri would like to see signage on the bike path by Rte 35 bridge. Direction arrows for Manasquan and Allenwood. .

\$10,000 to \$20,000 SJ grants waiting to be given to NJ municipalities for energy related projects. (Tim to Jeff from wjm) -email regarding \$10,000 to \$20,000 grants just waiting to be given to NJ municipalities for energy related projects. There is an Oct 30 filing deadline.

Dinosaur Sculpture in the Woods - unable to contact the artist Robin Ruggiero

Green Business Recognition Program – Members requested to submit applications for 2020 on-line. Deadline October.

Adjournment 8:57PM Motion Hance Sitkus 2nd John Ozell

Attachments: Our Environment: Mindful House Cleaning by Ingrid Justick, EPA's Eighth Annual Septic Smart Week: Safeguard Your Family's Health, Protect the Environment and Save Money EPA Provides Training to More Than 35 Municipalities in Puerto Rico, Single Use Plastics Bill, Autonomous Air Taxi Prototype Takes Test Flight in Virginia, Driverless Transportation to Return to Arlington, Texas, Flying Taxis: Experts Balance Enthusiasm Against Reality, Houston-Dallas' High-Speed Rail Line: Full Steam Ahead, Jersey City Boosts Ride-Sharing Service Amid Rising Demand, Malware Attack Hits Philadelphia Transit Worker Data