

# MOORESTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

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**DATE:** Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 7:00 P.M. @ Library Room A.

**PRESENT:** Joan Ponessa, Chris Salvatico, Henry Balikov, Stephen Jaffe, George Gravenstine, Barbara Rich, Brian Thomas, Nancy Jamanow & Nicole Gillespie. Guests: Maria & Bob Esche (Residents), Susan Gilman (Sustainable Moorestown)

**REORGANIZATION:** Elections of officers for the current year were conducted.

<i>Chairperson</i>	Joan Ponessa	Nominated by: Chris & Seconded by: Brian
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Barb Rich	Nominated by: Chris & Seconded by: Brian
<i>Secretary</i>	Chris Salvatico	Nominated by: Henry & Seconded by: Steve

Voice vote was unanimous for all three positions.

Joan welcomed the members to the Committee and stated that the Committee will meet on the third Thursday of every month. A list of dates was made available to the group as a reminder. She also wished to congratulate Barb Rich on her recent Proclamation marking January 12<sup>th</sup> as “Barb Rich” day in recognition of her many years of work and her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**MINUTES:** Approved. Moved by George and seconded by Barb.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY (ERI):** Joan and Chris gave an update on the progress of the ERI. MEAC has received a third version of the report from DVRPC. Before the meeting Chris distributed an email link to the Committee so they can download the report and review it for themselves. This will most likely be the last time major changes can be made to keep on the schedule for final approval. Chris asked that members submit changes / updates to him by early next week. Chris will also send a link with the download information to members of Council so that they may have a preview of the document before it comes before them in February. Barb asked that we make a list of all the persons / organizations that should receive a hard copy of the report. Mel Musie from DVRPC is pricing additional copies, but since the size of the document is still in flux an exact price has not yet been determined.

### **APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:**

**McLean Packaging Corp. PB#2022-29:** Block 301, Lots 2, 3, 4. 1504 Glen Avenue. The applicant proposes to construct a 52,850 SF industrial building addition, a paved loading area, and associated improvements. Nancy stated that this project has been delayed as there were significant questions from Township professionals. The applicant will revise the plans and resubmit. The hearing date is currently unknown. However, MEAC did review the existing plans to get a better idea of the existing and proposed layout. Issues brought up by the Committee include basin capacity, access and design, PCB and lead contamination and the need for ground water sampling. The Committee will be given an opportunity to review updated plans when they are submitted to the Township.

**“YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT” AND WATER PROJECTS:** Joan mentioned that MEAC is interested in assisting the Township and Town Council with their extension to the “Year of the Environment.” The focus for the Committee will likely be water issues. Nicole stated that the current Council has not yet discussed the topic in detail but will soon. There are many topics to address such as leaves, storm drains, street flooding, and securing vital Township areas such as the water treatment plant from flooding damage. The MEAC basin project was mentioned, and Nancy stated that letters to all basin owners in town have been mailed out and she has been receiving responses from them. MEAC also desires to work more closely with Public Works in the hopes to help alleviate some of the Town’s water issues. Barb also mentioned that the NJDEP is coming out with new non-tidal waterways rules to increase the setback from 50’ to 100’. The public comment period ends February 3, 2023.

Henry presented a write-up of what he would like to see the Committee tackle in the future and expressed a delight in being appointed to the Committee.

**CHARTER:** Joan expressed a desire to finalize the Committee’s charter early in the year so that the Committee can focus its efforts in the most effective way. Nicole stated that she has had several conversations with the Town Manager and will continue to work towards a resolution.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Maria and Bob Esche spoke about how New Fortress Energy is planning to transport Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) by truck and rail from the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania to a port in Gibbstown, NJ for export. They feel that this transport exposes towns such as Moorestown to unnecessary risk. They mentioned that several towns, States, and other groups have expressed their opposition to the project and asked if Moorestown could do the same through a resolution. Nicole said that issues such as this have come up to Council before and while she is personally opposed to the transport project the Council usually refrains from these types of resolutions, mainly because they hold no legal weight. She did say that the Esche’s are welcome to put the matter in front of the current Council and see if others have a different view.

Susan Gilman who is a member of Sustainable Moorestown spoke about her efforts to get more communication between the various Township Committees. She wishes to create a program of volunteers who will assist the Township in keeping storm drains clear and in good order. She also mentioned a whole list of other efforts that she and Sustainable would like to work on this year and into the future. These topics included EV chargers, solar panels, wetlands, and floodplains. The Committee expressed their appreciation and are willing to assist where applicable.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** The next following standard meeting will be scheduled for Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in a Library meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 P.M. Moved by Chris and seconded by Brian.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Chris Salvatico, Secretary.