

# MOORESTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

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**DATE:** Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 7:00 P.M. @ Virtual MS Teams.

**PRESENT:** Joan Ponessa, Barb Rich, Chris Salvatico, Brian Thomas, George Gravenstine, Jennifer Otter, Stephen Jaffe, Rakesh Gupta, Quinton Law, & Nancy Jamanow.

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

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** *Rt. 38 and South Church Street Improvement Project*. This is a NJDOT project focusing on improving an area along Route 38 including the intersection at South Church street as well as the replacement of the Hooten Creek bridge. Joan mentioned that a notice was mailed to residents from NJDOT inviting people to view an on-line public presentation at <https://route38churchst-fellowshiprd.com/> as well as submit comments via email to [Route38ChurchStFellowshipRd@gmail.com](mailto:Route38ChurchStFellowshipRd@gmail.com). The comment period will end on April 7<sup>th</sup>. MEAC's concerns include drainage into Strawbridge Lake and the effect on traffic and the dam from the construction work to replace the bridge on South Church Street over Hooten Creek. MEAC's action item is to draft a letter to the NJDOT to request any and all studies that have been done for the project to date in order for us to make informed comments.

**MOORESTOWN STORMWATER ORDINANCE:** Chris circulated an updated draft ordinance before the meeting to be used as a basis for discussion. This draft included the compiled comments from MEAC members who submitted them. Nancy also circulated a letter and subsequent judgement from the Builders League of South Jersey v. Borough of Haddonfield (Docket No.: A-5588-18) outlining a decision regarding the Borough of Haddonfield's adoption of an ordinance governing stormwater management. In this judgement, it was determined that "Haddonfield's Ordinance conflicted with the pronouncement in the MLUL and the RSIS by applying stormwater review to single-family and two-family homes." Granted that the Borough's new ordinance is much stricter in its application of stormwater review than the one Moorestown is currently considering, the Committee will need to consider this result in its own work.

Discussion of the current draft ordinance focused around a few points:

- Is there a need for this based on the evidence (or lack thereof) of stormwater issues in town?
- Will any attempts to add some control over stormwater for smaller projects be possible based on the above-mentioned judgement?
- Is the current language in the draft ordinance strong enough to have an effect, but also not be too onerous on the resident?
  - The Committee recommended the removal of the reference to protecting SWM features through conservation easement, deed restriction, or other acceptable legal measures. (This was done because it did not make sense to deed restrict the location of a rain barrel or rain garden for example.)

- Some members felt that the requirements for Township review would be an issue so an attempt will be made to “clean-up” that wording.
- If Township review survives, a section on Fees will need to be added to cover the Township’s cost in conducting that review.

The action items for this is the Committee are to review the materials and forward any comments on to Chris. Chris will then work with Nancy on the Township Review and Fees section and recirculate the results of that discussion to the rest of the Committee.

After this process, the draft ordinance will be sent to the Township Legal representative for review. As a result of that if changes are needed, they can be made at that time. After this process the document will be submitted to the Planning Board and then to the Council for their consideration.

**APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:**

**OPEX Corporation. PB#2021-11:** Block 502, Lots 9 & 11, 835 Lancer Drive & 301 Commerce Drive. The applicant proposes to expand the parking area and add SWM facilities. This application will not be heard until May so the Committee will review the application and discuss at the April MEAC meeting. Comments will then be drafted and submitted if necessary.

**PREVIOUS APPLICATION INFORMATION:** Joan reported that ***West Camden Avenue Development Associates, LLC. PB#2020-12*** was approved by the Planning Board, and ***The Evergreens. ZBA#2020-28*** was approved by the Zoning Board.

**BASINS:** Joan mentioned that the basin list that she has is more extensive than the 95 basins listed on the basin maps and in Nancy’s research. Nancy will review the list from Joan and compare to the list she has for any discrepancies.

**SWEDES RUN:** Joan reported that STEM is currently looking for a tractor to start work. Brian offered to help in this regard. Joan will put Brian in touch with Mark Pensiero, President of STEM.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** The next following standard meeting will be scheduled for Thursday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. on MS Teams.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 P.M. Moved by Chris and seconded by Brian.

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