

MOORESTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, April 20th, 2023, 7:00 P.M. @ Library Room A.

PRESENT: Joan Ponessa, Chris Salvatico, Henry Balikov, George Gravenstine, Barbara Rich, & Nicole Gillespie.

MINUTES: Approved. Moved by Henry and seconded by Barb.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY (ERI): Joan and Chris gave an update on the ERI. Chris got a status update from Mel. The review is ongoing, and the new ETA is late May. The Committee discussed the need for additional copies above the 35 that would be received under contract. Our estimate is an additional 50 copies. Nicole will do some research on printing costs.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW: There were no applications for review this month.

“YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT” AND WATER PROJECTS: Joan passed out a list of priority topics for MEAC and the Township. They included:

- Creation of a flyer to remind people to not flush medications. Not flushing “flushable” wipes was also added to this.
- Creation of a flyer to remind people to keep their storm sewers clean as well as a reminder that “Stormwater never travels alone” which means that runoff will carry other things with it such as chemicals, pet waste, etc.
- The first round of letters went out to basin owners in the Township. MEAC would like to be kept abreast of that program. Nicole will find out any updates and report back to the Committee.
- MEAC would like to be involved in the yearly Water Report that is mailed out to residents. The report used to carry information about water conservation ideas and MEAC would like to see that used again. Nicole said that it would be helpful for MEAC to be involved and she will get the draft copy of the next report for MEAC’s review and comment.
- The MEAC webpage on the main Township website needs a refresh concerning water issues as well as other important issues as well. Joan and Chris will work on this effort.
- Nicole spoke of her trip to Phoenixville, Pennsylvania to visit a model wastewater plant using a hydrothermal carbonization (HTC) process. This process takes in solid wastes and processes it into Hydrochar which can then be use as a solid fuel and an absorbent for removing pollutants. The Township is considering this process at our own wastewater treatment plant through a feasibility study. She will send out everyone a video explaining the process.
- Henry gave a presentation on “Forever” chemicals which discussed their distribution, difficulty of mitigation and health effects. He will distribute his report to MEAC when he has completed it.

CHARTER FOR MEAC: Nicole reported that the work to define MEAC’s role in the review process is ongoing. She understands the need for clarification among all parties and is working towards a speedy resolution.

OPEN SPACE REPORT: Barb reported that there was no meeting this week. She did mention that other towns have an ordinance concerning septic system maintenance and would like to see Moorestown have the same. She will send Nicole a copy of a sample ordinance to consider.

SUSTAINABLE GREEN TEAM REPORT: Chris reported that Sustainable will have a booth at Daffodil Day on Saturday, April 22nd. The foci will be sustainable information, a recycle challenge, and bee keeping. There will be native plant plug distribution as well.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Nicole reported that the new budget will be introduced at the next Council meeting. It will call for a 1.89% tax increase. The police department will be adding an additional patrol person and is in the process of hiring either a Police Chief or a Director of Police depending on the right candidate. A new well is being drilled at the Hartford Plant due to one of the wells pulling up silt. The Township purchased a home in the Lenola Road, Crider Avenue section which will be rehabbed for affordable housing. Flooding is an issue there and a stormwater easement will be created there as well. Pulverizing Services will go to Sheriff sale soon and then the Township will release an RFP for development soon after.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The next following standard meeting will be scheduled for Thursday May 18th at 7:00 P.M. in a Library meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M. Moved by Chris and seconded by George.

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Salvatico, Secretary.