

MOORESTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, June 17th, 2021 7:00 P.M. @ Virtual MS Teams.

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

MINUTES: Approved. Moved by George and seconded by Jennifer.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Joan reported that MEAC will meet in-person in the library meeting room starting next month. Barb asked on the possibility for a Township septic maintenance ordinance. Currently, septic systems fall under the purview of the County, but this might change in the future. Jennifer volunteered to investigate the issue. Sustainable Moorestown asked about the schedule for updating the ERI as the points for this effort will expire. Joan reported that updating the ERI is a goal for the Committee after the work on the stormwater ordinance is complete. Joan was asked by a resident about the status of the geese issues in town and around the lake. The Township used to have an addling program as well as a contract with Geese Chasers, but the current status of both are unknown. Nancy will check into the Geese Chasers contract to see if it is still active.

MOORESTOWN STORMWATER ORDINANCE: Joan reiterated the goals of the stormwater ordinance update that included flood control, groundwater recharge and to reduce pollution. As stated in the last meeting the Committee was given the opportunity to make comments and suggestions. There were a few suggestions made pre-meeting. 1) Jennifer added “and minor” to a few locations where appropriate. 2) Jennifer suggested raising the lower trigger limit for the definition of Minor Development from 500 sq. ft to 1,000 sq. ft. 3) Stephen suggested adding a maintenance provision to regulate basins/ponds for single family homes or small subdivisions. 4) Rakesh poised a series of questions asking for clarification on certain sections of the ordinance.

The Committee held continued discussion on the effectiveness of an updated ordinance which included addressing some of Rakesh’s concerns as well as discussing if raising the lower Minor Development limit was appropriate. A vote was taken to approve the raising of the lower limit. The “Yes” votes were Joan Ponessa, Barb Rich, Chris Salvatico, Jennifer Otter, and Brian Thomas. The “No” votes were George Gravenstine. The alternates votes were “Yes” for Stephen Jaffe and “No” for Rakesh Gupta. The motion passed.

Discussion continued on the possibility of adding a provision to require maintenance on basins/ponds. The Committee determined that Section D, subsection 17(j), would cover that issue.

A sentence was added to the Minor Developments section to allow for the collection of escrow for Township engineer review.

A motion was put forth by Chris and seconded by Barb to hold a vote to advance the updated ordinance out of Committee as it currently stood with all additions. The “Yes” votes were Joan Ponessa, Barb Rich, Chris Salvatico, Jennifer Otter, and Brian Thomas. The “No” votes were

George Gravenstine. The alternates votes were “Yes” for Stephen Jaffe and “Abstain” for Rakesh Gupta. The motion passed. Chris will clean up the document to comply with Township standards and submit it to Nancy.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:

Reconstructive Orthopedics. PB#2021-16: Block 3207, Lot 7, 300 Route 38. Minor site plan with variances. This application will be heard by the Planning Board in July. New plans were submitted to the Township and MEAC was given an opportunity to review them. Brian performed a site visit and took pictures of the existing basin. He pointed out several deficiencies including erosion, broken piping, clogged pipes and an oily sheen found on the water.

MEAC’s comments on the new plans were as follows: There appears to be no plan to upgrade the existing basin that needs repair. Should it not be upgraded if they plan on continuing to outlet stormwater there? Where is the source of the oily sheen found on site in the water? The new parking area encroaches on the 50 ft wetland buffer. How will the applicant mitigate for this? The applicant is requesting an LOI from the DEP for it and MEAC would like a copy of that when available.

BASINS: Nancy is continuing to review the list from Joan and compare it to the list she has for any discrepancies. As a result of a site visit to the Route 38 side of Strawbridge Lake made by Joan and Chris three additional basins were added to the basin list.

OPEN SPACE: Barb reported on the happenings of the Open Space Committee. The “Take a Hike” brochure is going to be reprinted. The printer is requesting the original of the document because the current scan is not at a high enough resolution for a crisp print. The location of the original document is unknown, and Patty will reach out to Barb to try to resolve the situation.

Barb reported on the possibility of obtaining the donation of a portion of Block 7100, Lot 35 (Carson Farm) for preservation. The larger lot behind that (Block 7100, Lot 45) is also a possibility for purchase since much of it is unavailable for development and is currently landlocked. She will keep the Committee updated.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The next following standard meeting will be scheduled for Thursday July 15th at 7:00 P.M. in the Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M. Moved by Jennifer and seconded by Brian.

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Salvatico, Secretary.