

MOORESTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, August 17th, 2023, 7:00 P.M. @ Library Room A.

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY (ERI): Chris and Joan had a call with Mel from DVRPC on August 17th to discuss a few edits to the document. Mel will send an updated document link next week and Chris will forward it to Patty Muscella for the Planning Board so they will have it in plenty of time for their September 7th meeting. Nicole will ask what the Planning Board procedure for adoption will be and will email Joan that information.

CHARTER FOR MEAC: The committee previously developed a preliminary set of criteria that both the Planning and Zoning Boards can use when submitting plans for MEAC review. The Committee took another look at it and agreed it is ready for submission to the Planning Board. Joan will email the document to Patty Muscella.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:

Moorestown Family Apartments PB#2021-33F: Block 7401, Proposed Lot 1.02. Borton Landing Road. The applicant is seeking land use approvals for the construction of a mixed income development consisting of 76 affordable family apartments and 76 market rate units. The project includes a community building, athletic court and playground, stormwater management facilities, landscape buffers and lighting. This application is being heard at the special Planning Board Meeting on August 17th, 2023. MEAC was given an original set of plans, but no action needed to be taken as there were no changes in design since our last review.

92 North Lenola Road (Dominica Foundation, Inc.) PB#2023-26: Block 100, Lot 1.09. The applicant is seeking preliminary and final site plan approval to permit the construction of 150 townhomes with a 20% set-aside for low- and moderate-income housing. The hard copies and digital copies of the plans were made available to MEAC. Joan, Barb, and Henry attended the Appearance Committee meeting on August 16th, 2023, where they were able to meet with the applicants and ask questions. MEAC regards this joint meet as a “test run” of Committee and developers interaction and all in all thought it went well. One issue raised is one of communication. It was felt that it was not understood by the other groups that MEAC would be attending as a joint Committee rather than just as members of the public. We will strive to make this distinction clearer in the future. This will be heard by the Planning Board on October 5th, 2023.

WATER PROJECTS: Nicole spoke with Kevin Aberant about the possibility of MEAC working with the Township on updating the Annual Water Report, but since most of what is included in that report is regulated there will be little to no room for additions. However, MEAC was asked if they can assist the Township in an educational effort to convince residents that conserving water is necessary and that the Town does have a water-use ordinance. Due to high usage the Township has needed to purchase additional water to cover the heavy need, and this has proven to be very expensive. MEAC discussed different ways they can help including brochure development, newspaper articles, and trainings. Stephen Jaffee has volunteered to draft up a news article and circulate it among the Committee for their input.

STRAWBRIDGE LAKE: George updated the Committee on the happenings at the lake. The Township has installed 6 fishing line receptacles in various locations to keep old fishing lines out of the natural environment. A third dock was installed across from the Children's playground. Another one of the docks was stabilized and the Township is looking to add an additional piece to another dock.

OPEN SPACE REPORT: Barb reported there were no updates from the Open Space Committee.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Nicole reported that the County is planning to pave and stripe Camden Avenue in late September or early October. The Town's existing water ordinance is still in effect and people need to understand that it is important that it is followed.

OPEN SPACE REPORT: Barb reported no news from the Open Space Committee.

COMMENTS ON CO2 ISSUES: Henry asked how the Township can take credit for any CO2 reduction issues. Chris mentioned that Sustainable Moorestown takes a yearly inventory of the Township's auto fleet, and they may have some of that information. He said the Tree Committee is also a good source for CO2 sequestering information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Charlie stated that the MEAC webpage should have a mission statement like the one that Sustainable Moorestown does.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The next following standard meeting will be scheduled for Thursday September 21st at 7:00 P.M. in a Library meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 P.M. Moved by Chris and seconded by Charlie.

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Salvatico, Secretary.