

# Minutes of the Andover Township Environmental Commission Meeting held February 11, 2021 at 6:00PM Via ZOOM

Chair Dr. Josh Osowski called the meeting to order, and read the Environmental Commission Mission Statement.

## Roll Call:

Dr. Josh Osowski, Chair – Present  
Mayor Janis McGovern, Township Committee Liaison – Present  
Suzanne Howell, Land Use Board Liaison – Present  
Eric Olsen, Sustainable Andover Liaison and member - Present  
Ray Wexler, member – Present  
Christine Kretzmer, member – Absent  
Brenda Izzo, Alternate – Present  
Recreation Liaison – to be determined

## Flag Salute

Chair Osowski read the Open Public Meeting Act: This meeting complied with Chapter 231, P.L. 195, with adequate notice having been posted.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was adopted without changes

**Approval of the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting:** The minutes were approved with minor corrections.

**Open to the Public:** Chair Osowski opened the meeting to the public. Bill Howell came forward regarding signage at Lakeside Nature Park and mentioned that the Trex (recycled plastic) signage is extremely heavy. With no one else coming forward, the Chair closed the meeting to the Public.

**Presentation by Michaeline Picaro:** Ms. Picaro was having technical difficulties so her presentation was moved down the agenda.

## Old Business:

- **Open Space Plan:** Eric Olsen reported that the OSP RFP is in the final stages of getting it out to bid. He will be working with Patty Bussow to post on the Township website and for distribution to the Andover Township social media, and posting with the League of Municipalities. It was decided that a subcommittee be formed to review the responses to the RFP. Eric is stepping down due to potential conflict of interest. The subcommittee will be Josh Osowski, Ray Wexler and Suzanne Howell. The responses will go first to Patty Bussow, then to Josh Osowski and the subcommittee.
- **Hillside Walking Path:** An estimate of cost was given by Cory Stoner, Township Engineer, and was reviewed by the members of the commission. The estimate is \$120,000. However, there appears to be areas where the price can be reduced. Janice McGovern is going to contact Darren Dickinson to see what work could be done in-house by Township employees. The estimated price is a concern as there are other projects the EC is working on.
- **Lakeside Nature Park:** Josh Osowski advised that there is a new gate at the park, and that the existing sign has been vandalized. There was discussion as to the new sign: will there be a logo, both sides, what else do we want on it. Josh is going to get a mock up for the next meeting. Eric suggested that a sign be done for Hillside park at the same time, in the same style for a branded feel.
- **Andover Loop:** Josh Osowski advised nothing new at this time. The snow has to go and the trail has to be checked for areas of improvement,

- ANJEC Dues: In process of being paid. Also, a brief discussion regarding the newly passed ban on single-use paper and plastic bags and what we may be able to do to on social media to spread the word.
- **Hemlock Avenue/Green Acres:** Josh reported this is a dead issue unless the Township decides to resurrect talks. It was suggested that the Township speak with the land owner to see what his intentions are.

**Presentation by Michaeline Picaro:**

Michaeline Picaro is a member of the Turtle Clan of the Ramapough Lenape Nation. Unfortunately, she was unable to get the power point presentation to work. She did talk with us about the work she and her husband are doing in our area mapping the ceremonial stone landscapes that are hundreds of years old. She shared some pictures from her phone of some of the trail markers they have found. She related that these are important to their culture as so much of their oral tradition has been lost. She also briefly spoke about the toxic dumping by Ford in the Ramapough Mountains, the Ramapough Lenape Nation's back yard. The documentary *Mann V. Ford* tells of the struggle the Ramapough Lenape Nation has faced. Michaeline said she would come back to our next meeting with the power point presentation.

**Liaison Updates:**

**Land Use Board:** Sue Howell advised that the LUB is working on two ordinances, a new Food Truck Ordinance and reviewing a Cannabis Ordinance at the Township Committee's request. The Stormwater Management ordinance was updated per new State regulations. There are no new applications and no hearings scheduled for the February 16, 2021 meeting.

**Township Committee:** Mayor Janis McGovern reported that Cory Stoner had inspected Pace glass and finds that some of the plastic bags that are being used to store the products to be recycled are breaking down. The Township Committee has sent a prototype Cannabis Ordinance to the Land Use Board for review.

**Sustainable Andover:** Eric Olsen reported that there are some new actions for certification in which the Township will be participating. There is a support local business initiative, and the Sunflower Initiative. Sunflowers will be grown in mass quantities on at least seven farms in the Township. It's hoped that this will bring business into the Twp. Some of the local restaurants will be joining the effort. Diane Gillespie is working on this.

**Recreation Committee:** Brenda Izzo was named the liaison to the Recreation Committee

With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Eric Olsen, seconded by Sue Howell and passed with all members saying aye. The meeting ended at 7:21PM.