

Minutes of the Andover Township Environmental Commission  
Meeting held March 11, 2021 at 6:00PM VIA ZOOM

Chair Dr. Josh Osowski called the meeting to order at 6:06PM and read the Environmental Commission Mission Statement.

**Roll Call:**

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

**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:** Eric Olsen moved to approve, seconded by Suzanne Howell. The agenda was approved with all members saying aye.

**Approval of the minutes of the February 11, 2021 minutes:** Eric Olsen moved to approve the minutes, Ray Wexler seconded and the minutes were approved with all members saying aye.

**Open to the Public:** Chair Osowski opened the meeting to the public. With no member of the public coming forward, the Chair closed the meeting to the public.

**Old Business:**

**Open Space Plan Update:** Eric Olsen advised that the Open Space Plan RFP has been posted on the Township website. Patty Bussow will forward responses to Josh Osowski who will in turn contact the other sub-committee members, Ray Wexler and Suzanne Howell. The deadline is April 16, 2021.

**Lakeside Nature Park Signs and Gate:** Josh Osowski presented tentative quotes for signage. \$3900 for two signs with room to attach an emblem. Posts not included as we can do them ourselves at a lesser cost. Short discussion about getting a third sign for the Hillside Park/Goodale Fields. Motion by Eric Olsen, seconded by Christine Kretzmer to obtain firm quotes for three signs.

**ANJEC Dues:** Chair Osowski advised that the dues had been paid in February, 2021.

**Andover Loop:** No update

**Hillside Walking Path:** No Update

**BHT:** Ray Wexler asked if BHT was going forward at the March 16th Land Use Board meeting, Suzanne Howell responded that they are on the agenda for that meeting.

**New Business:** No new business discussed

**Committee Updates:** In the interest of time for the presentation by Michaeline Picaro, the Committee reports were tabled to the April, 2021 meeting.

**Presentation by Michaeline Picaro:** Ms. Picaro is a member of the Ramapough Lunappe Munsee Nation and gave a power point presentation on some of the work that she is doing in and around the Lake Lenape area mapping Ceremonial Stone Landscaping. She showed pictures of directional trees, and how they were shaped, rock shelters, different stone formations “ball on pavement”, tooth in gum (I think I have that correct) and other formations She talked about how difficult it is to find written proof of the trails made by the Native Americans as their history is chiefly an oral history. Old deeds and official documents such as surveys have to be combed through to see if there is mention of Indians – which would help prove that the trails were made by the Native Americans. She showed us a slide of the 1764 Dutch Map with the Minnisink Trail, also Ms. Picaro talked as to not all stone walls in the area were made by farmers. Many were directional tools used by the Native Americans as guides to water, fishing and other villages. There was also a slide of a “serpent” wall – and yes, you can see the serpent in the rocks forming the wall. The minute notes don’t do the presentation justice. Ms. Picaro answered questions as they came up during the presentation, and said that she would be amenable to doing a walk-about with some of us. Many thanks to her for this presentation.

The next meeting of the Environmental Commission is April 8· 2021.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32PM with a motion to adjourn made by Ray Wexler, seconded by Suzanne Howell and passed with all members saying aye.