

Minutes of the Andover Township Environmental Commission Meeting held June 10, 2021 at 6:00PM VIA ZOOM

Chair Dr. Josh Osowski called the meeting to order at 6:03PM

Flag Salute.

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 – Absent
Brenda Izzo, Recreation Liaison, Alternate – Absent

Flag Salute

Mission Statement: Chair Osowski read the Environmental Commission Mission Statement into the record.

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

Adoption of the Agenda: A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Eric Olsen, seconded by Ray Wexler, and approved with all members saying Aye.

Approval of Minutes of the 4-8-2021 EC Meeting: A motion to approve made by Suzanne Howell, seconded by Ray Wexler, and approved with all members saying Aye.

Open to the Public

Diane Gillespie commented that the Township Committee had discussed approving funds to investigate trail crossing signage near the Hillside Park lower parking lot.

Eileen Ibryani commented that she is worried about BHT and the upcoming application, and also, the Master Plan.

Old Business:

- **Open Space Plan Update:** Josh Osowski advised that an Open Space Subcommittee has been set up consisting of Josh Osowski, Eric Olsen, Suzanne Howell and Paul Messerschmidt from the Land Use Board. There will be a meeting with H2M on 6-29-2021 to go over preliminary details. H2M will also go before the Land Use Board on 7-6-2021 and the Environmental Commission has been asked to attend that meeting to hear H2M discuss their plan for the update. A motion was made by Josh Osowski, seconded by Suzanne Howell for the EC to attend this meeting, and was approved with all members saying Aye. Eric Olsen mentioned that this should be a positive experience as H2M will give us the data so we have it for ourselves and that they have an aggressive calendar for completion. A good point as we are missing Green Acres funding as our Open Space Plan is out of date.

- **Lakeside Nature Park Signs:** Josh Osowski advised that there is a plastic shortage and the sign company is about six months behind on orders. He will keep in touch with the them and report back to the EC as he has information.
- **Andover Loop:** Josh Osowski advised that the Park has hired additional help and an inventory of the signage and blazes on the Loop is being made, with a report to be given at a future meeting.

Liaison Reports:

- **Land Use Board:** Suzanne Howell advised that BHT has submitted a new application and will be heard on 6-15-2021 at the Barn. It was suggested that the statement that had been prepared for the old BHT application be reviewed to see if it is still relevant to the new application. It was agreed that the EC would meet on 6-24-2021 at 6PM at Hillside House to review the old statement and the new application plans.
- **Sustainable Andover:** Eric Olsen advised that Sustainable Andover has submitted Andover Township to Sustainable Jersey for Bronze Certification. Also, Sustainable Andover received a modest grant from Sustainable Jersey that will help print the Buy Local Andover guide. Sustainable Andover will be promoting the Sunflower event for the last two weeks of August into early September.

New Business:

- Eric Olsen requested that the EC review the ordinance requirements for an Environmental Impact Statement. There are varying levels of details and quality of the statement that need to be reviewed and updated. There have been several updates, but are they really relevant. The suggestion was made that we obtain EIS requirements from some other municipalities, and possibly ANJEC, and compare them with the Andover requirements. If we find items that need to be updated or added, a recommendation should be made to the Land Use Board for possible ordinance update.

Adjournment: There being no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting and passed with all members saying Aye. The meeting ended at 6:36PM.