

**TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Jan 8, 2026, 7:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**—Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Statement of Adequate Notice**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call – Members Present**

Brian Morgan  
Thelma Achenbach  
Jennifer Carcich  
Cecile Kent  
Eric Rush  
Charlie Schachter

**Members Absent**

Barbara Buda

**Alternate Members Present**

Kathleen Hourihan

**Alternate Members Absent**

Ned Gardner

**Associate Members Present**

Amy Brunswick  
Vicky Barghout  
Leslie Jones-Wentz  
Josh Saks

**Associate Members Absent**

Karen Seidmon

**Approval of Previous Minutes**—Minutes were approved as submitted.

**New applications referred from the Planning Board**—There were no new applications from the Planning Board.

**New applications referred from the Board of Adjustment**—There were no new applications from the Board of Adjustment.

**EC Report (site reviews)**

**PB-14-25**, Morris School District, Block 901, Lot 3, 10 Jane Way, OSGU zone. Applicant proposes the construction of a synthetic turf field, drainage, dugouts, and fencing. It seemed like there was minimal tree impact, but there was no tree plan submitted, so Kathleen indicated they therefore recommended a tree plan be prepared. The primary issue is that the artificial turf and runoff of particles and harmful chemicals, including PFAS, that could contaminate waterways and possibly a well.

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**PB-15-25\_Morristown Motors, Inc.** In connection with this (previous) application, the Applicant seeks to install a 73 square foot generator pad, a 25 square foot electric vehicle charger pad, and a 5 square foot transformer pad. The applicant also proposes to remove approximately 103 square feet of impervious surface to the rear of Lot 7 in order to accommodate the increase in impervious coverage. Eric reported that this review was done in March where they were planning to reconfigure the parking lot and make other minor revisions, all of which were approved. A minor revision to the site plan was submitted in October, and Eric stated that these revisions only represent 135 square feet as compared to the total property of 265,000 square feet. The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) reviewed this in October, recommended some items, and then signed off on it. There was not a significant change to the original site plan, and it is on Monday's Planning Board meeting agenda. Eric indicated that since these revisions to the original plan are minor, he does not see any environmental concerns, but he will follow up with the TCC reiterating their concerns about sound, etc.

### **Swearing In**

- Charlie and Thelma were sworn in as Voting Members of the Environmental Commission, and Kathleen as an Alternate. Leslie and Karen will be sworn in at the February meeting.

**Correspondence** – There was no postal mail correspondence this month.

- The EC received an email from a resident, Dr. Nushad Ken, regarding a pre-initiative known as Greenlight which helps traffic engineers control traffic flow and greenhouse gas emissions. Brian forwarded the email to Donna and Siva.
- A second communication was from a student at Wayne Hills High School, Wayne NJ, who is seeking volunteer opportunities in Butterworth Garden. Charlie reached out to him.
- Barbara Davis from the Land Conservancy emailed Brian to ask if the EC wanted to move forward with ERI.

### **General Business**

Speaker - Dylan Medici *Director of Outreach and Education – NJ Highlands Coalition*, gave a presentation on the Landscape Makeover Program, where approximately one third of the area within the Speedwell Lake and Burnham Park Lake watersheds in Morris Township is eligible for the program.

### Chairperson Remarks

#### Accomplishments

- Thanks again to everyone who joined the tours on December 12.
- The Superfund Act Resolution was passed by the Township in December, and hopefully it will get passed by the State.
- Many thanks to everyone who participated in the year-end party.

### Old / New business review

#### Old Business

- As a reminder, our new contact for site reviews is Ryan Kurpat in the Engineering Department. His direct dial at the Township is 973-326-7215, rkurpat@morristwp.com.

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- There is no winter farmers' market this month, but we will be there in February, so please consider signing up if available.
- TC Initiatives:
  - Brian asked Siva for an update on Dark Skies, and Siva reported that Tim Quinn and the Engineering Department want to review and revise Mendham Township's ordinance regarding concerns about retrofitting existing fixtures. Brian recommended to Siva that instead of weakening the ordinance, to instead allow a transition period for them to be changed to meet Dark Skies requirements.
  - Food Waste Pickup—Brian provided Siva the requested financial information from Java's Compost and still more clarification may be required. Brian will follow up with Siva again.
  - Stormwater Compliance—there is no word yet.
- If you have any Sustainable Jersey or ANJEC grant ideas let Brian know; as of yet, no one has provided any.
- Brian collected more feedback on the Tree Ordinance Letter and has made some progress toward finalizing it.
- Please give some consideration toward formalizing your objectives for 2026 and sharing them with Brian. Hopefully next month we can dedicate some time to discussing the objectives.

New business review

- Thelma does not wish to continue in the role of EC representative on the Open Space Committee, so we need someone else to fill in. There are just three meetings a year, so it's not a heavy lift. It is important for the EC to maintain their representation. Due to scheduling conflicts, Eric and Jennifer may share the role this year.
- Sally Muscarella (from last meeting) noted that April is Native Plant month, and did the EC want to do anything? Brian asked if anyone had a suggestion for any EC activity for Earth month, and Charlie countered that since most everyone is focused on environmentally focused events in April, we could save our energies and ideas for the other 11 months of the year. The Board agreed.

Upcoming Schedule

- Regional Shade Tree Discussion is scheduled for Saturday, January 10 in Madison. Eric, Kathleen, and Cece plan to attend.
- Fall Festival is September 27.

Miscellaneous

- For 2026, the TC liaisons will be Donna Guariglia and Siva Jonnada.

Newsletter Review

- Charlie is not going to be continue doing the Newsletter. Amy Brunswick spent a significant amount of time with Charlie learning Constant Contact. There are two areas which people need to handle: layout of the articles and constant contact, which houses all the contact email addresses. Amy indicated that she will continue to work with the constant contact portion of the newsletter, but if other EC members could write the articles, that would be most helpful.

Project / Subcommittee Reports

- Poster Contest—Jennifer reported that we have between five and seven entries across 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, and the deadline is January 20 if there are any more schools with entries that members may know about.

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- Site Review Committee—currently forming and will be Eric, Thelma, and Kathleen.
- Green Team—all three members' terms were renewed.
- Energy Aggregation—Cece reported that, if all goes well, we will have a program in Morris Township starting in April or May. The Morris Coop was dismantled by the State of New Jersey, so Taurus had to resubmit a coop position entirely from scratch, and now there are only seven towns in the coop. This will affect 8,400 homes in the Township. Cece is going to share this information with Donna so the appropriate Township representatives can get more involved with this process as it is coming to fruition.

**Public Commentary — Limited to 5 minutes per person**

- Dylan Medici if the EC is interested, the Highland Coalition does educational programs talking about some of the history of the highlands, the work they do, etc., and Dylan would be willing to conduct those programs.

**Commentary by Commission Members**

- Charlie reported that, as a private citizen, he is pursuing more education and information regarding the potential regulation of gas leaf blowers. He is specifically coordinating with representatives from Madison, Chatham Township, and Chatham Boro, and the idea is that these three neighboring communities can pass the same ordinances so landscapers will have the same rules to follow in all three towns. He has requested a time to speak to the Township Committee regarding this issue and is hoping for March. He would also like to present to the EC, partly to practice and partly to educate the Board regarding the specifics they are focusing on, which are the health benefits of eliminating the gas leaf blowers. He also has a petition he is circulating, and he would appreciate it if any EC members can help obtain signatures.

**Commentary by TC Members**

- No TC members were present.

**Adjournment**—Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.