

**MORRIS TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 11, 2021**

The special meeting of the Township of Morris Environmental Commission was called to order on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 7:02 P.M. via Zoom webinar.

**Statement of Adequate Notice**

Chairman Buz Kenney issued the following statement of Adequate Notice:

“Adequate Notice” of this meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Township of Morris was given as required and defined by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows:

Written Notice was given to the official newspaper, Daily Record, by email on January 22, 2021 which was at least 48 hours prior to the date of this meeting, and a copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building of the Township of Morris on February 5, 2021 by the Secretary of this board and a copy of the notice was likewise filed in the Township Clerk’s office and in the Secretary’s office on February 5, 2021 and copies of this notice were mailed by certified mail to all persons who requested individual notices, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-19, all of which notices were given at least 48 hours prior to this meeting, and I hereby hand to the Secretary of this board for the purpose of incorporating into minutes of this meeting , a copy of this notice which was given as above set forth for appropriate retention in the “Municipal Files”.

**Pledge of Allegiance** led by Jenny Mantek, Secretary.

**Roll Call** taken by Jenny Mantek, Secretary:

**Members Present**

Jennifer Carcich  
Tilly Jo Emerson  
Siva Jonnada  
Daniel ‘Buz’ Kenney  
Cecile Kent  
Brian Morgan  
Mary Ellen Murray Alt. 1  
Barbara Buda Alt. 2

**Members Absent**

Joshua Saks

**Associate Members Present**

Ned Gardner  
Leslie Jones-Wentz  
John Landau  
Charlie Schachter  
Sanjiv Sharma

**Associate Members Absent**

Steve Tractenberg

**Also Present**

Timothy Quinn, Township Administrator  
Cathy Wilson, Township Committee  
William Ravitz, Township Committee  
Jenny Mantek, Secretary

**Absent**

James R. Slate, Township Engineer

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Cecile Kent, seconded by Brian Morgan and unanimously carried, the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting were approved as circulated and placed on file in the Administration Office.

**New application referred from the Planning Board**

**PB-01-21**, Joseph Savage, Block 2301, Lot 8, 34 Starlight Drive, RA-15 zone. Applicant proposes a minor subdivision to create one additional lot. Tim Quinn provided a brief description, it is a 5 acre lot, house has been demolished, there are wetlands on the property, applicant would like a 2 lot subdivision. Buz Kenney and Cece Kent will perform the review.

**New application referred from the Board of Adjustment**

**BA-01-21**, S/K Mt. Kemble Associates, LLC, Block 6101, Lot 4, 350 Mt. Kemble Avenue, OL-40 zone. Applicant is proposing to expand the parking lot to service a proposed inclusionary residential development located on the adjacent property in the Township of Harding. It was decided to table this review until the next meeting, as it may appear in front of the Harding Board of Adjustment prior to the Morris Township BOA.

**Correspondence:** None at this time

**Environmental Reports:**

Buz Kenney explained that everyone should have received copies of subcommittee reports, and that standards were adopted by the Environmental Commission last year. He has asked for the form to be available to all new members and associates so new committee members can use this form. The intent is to create an ongoing record of progress or lack of progress for all to see but to also move the meetings along so we don't get bogged down in lengthy reports and if there is anything of significance it can be brought to attention for discussion.

**General Business:**

- A. Subcommittees: Buz Kenney requested for all to review the subcommittees and if anyone would like to be added or removed to the circulated list to let him know, he will send out an updated list after the meeting.
- B. Subcommittee Reports
  - Outreach  
Brian Morgan provided an overview from his report, and will set up a subcommittee meeting to get everyone involved. Main items were accomplished, now 37 members on the mailing list, up from 16 last month. Mr. Morgan reminded everyone to sign up and send to friends and relatives the Monthly messenger to promote it along with Environmental Commission newsletter. He is working with Buz Kenney and were able to put together the website – it has

been updated. There is a Madison Master Gardner event in march – event has been published in Eventbrite, it is a good opportunity to get our name out and come to this speaker series. Barbara Buda asked if we could use Nextdoor to publish information there – Tim Quinn clarified once it becomes an approved Township document, it could be shared.

- Composting: Brian Morgan stated we have new members to help out with this and hope to make progress. Main objective will be around the spring event partnering with Madison and Chatham looking to sell composters at a discount and education. We have on board the master composter series and will work with the new members - #1 priority is to put solid content on the Environmental Commission website for composting, leveraging Rutgers, ANJEC and local content. Ned Gardner added he would be willing to help promote.
- Community Solar: Buz Kenney relayed the information to the EC that the Township was contacted by a private solar contractor looking to put in a project and wanted Township support – involved putting rooftop panels on a storage facility near East Hanover and Ridgedale. Ultimately the Township was compelled to walk away because the location falls in one of the Affordable Housing overlay zones. Brian added we had our kick off meeting – reviewed objectives. Next steps for community solar is to find other opportunities.
- Energy Aggregation: Cathy Wilson offered dates for a potential special meeting, Cece Kent said they would negotiate with the presenters on the date and will start putting up materials once the date is decided. Communications would be on a flyer, FAQ sheet, press release, monthly messenger and Facebook page. Ms. Kent continued, if we put a press release in the local media, we may be stimulating people outside of the Township – a number of the other towns around us are starting to look at energy aggregation and they asked if they could come with their residents if that happened. Tim Quinn answered it would be open to the public, to any municipality. All advertising material that goes out to the public needs to be reviewed by the communications standing committee.

Cathy Wilson asked regarding dates this may be a topic where an in person meeting would serve a purpose, if in person is possible toward end of summer would you consider doing another meeting in person in addition to the zoom meeting in April. Cece Kent said we will be doing a lot of outreach beside the zoom meeting; it would be likely to do a townhall in person – by then we would have established the process for going forward. Bud Ravitz commented that the major challenge will be the marketing of it, the perception problem as to what it is, and this will take three touches with the Township residents in order to say we have done the education piece. Cece Kent added once we get to the point of putting an ordinance together, we can have another townhall. there will be a number of meetings, mailings and outreach. Cathy Wilson asked for the presenters – one from the coop, one from the BPU and a surrounding town that participates. Montclair, Mendham and Califon has offered to do it too.

- Environmental Plan Update: Siva Jonnada provided an overview of new legislation: S2607 and A2875 passed in February which requires all municipalities to incorporate climate change related action plans into their Master Plans. Mr. Jonnada continued; we want to incorporate it into the environmental aspect of the Master Plan – ANJEC is looking to put a template out to municipalities based on legislature that was passed. Tilly Jo Emerson added it would be to the advantage of the Township to incorporate it. John Landau added one of the biggest issues is stormwater and floods – Buz Kenney responded the green infrastructure requirement is that we have to amend our storm water ordinance, that every municipality has to amend the master plan to provide for green infrastructure. EC has looked into extending

green infrastructure requirements to smaller lot sizes and the EC will look into this after the Township adopts the ordinance. There was a discussion regarding stormwater and how master plans look forward to the future and impacts of climate crisis, and having advocates looking for municipalities, how it is the question of building consensus and taking it to the state, as it will take more than one town to make an impact. This may be a topic for regional collaboratives. The new act does incorporate flooding and flood plans, it has to be regional to have impact, this is something the master plan committee should be thinking about. Siva Jonnada invited other members to be part of the discussion.

- Green Vehicles: Buz Kenney commented he has volunteered Morris Township to participate with Madison and Chatham to track electric vehicle registrations. He has contacted the community liaison at Morris School District and she has indicated the high school environmental class/group has a number of projects they are doing and could see if they are interested in participating. The state climate action plan sets goals for each township on an annual basis, we would like to monitor in our particular township. This is a work in progress, ongoing. Buz Kenney provided an update that there is funding in 2022 budget for first electric vehicle. Tim Quinn added the funding proposed to Township Committee is from capital improvement funds for the EV charging station, infrastructure – creating spots and we have an application with the state. We have a goal to start the work once adopted to do the design and purchase the dual port charging station.

### C. Regional Reports

Buz Kenney requested since a number of the EC are involve in Northern Jersey Sustainable Municipal Alliance, has anyone attended who wants to comment. Cece Kent commented that she has been working with energy aggregation, and they have been sharing info collected on programs and on essentials. John Landau commented he is involved in pollinator and pesticides groups – they are separate and have ambitious agenda items they will pursue.

### **Public Comment**

Rachel Linden – 35 Buckley Hill Rd – Resident asked about committees and subcommittees, how they are arranged and formed.

Public session closed at 8:31 PM

### **Commentary by Committee Members**

Mr. Kenney is seeing a number of EC members attending seminars, is keeping a log that relates to service regarding EC if members can send him the info so it can be included in the log.

Mr. Kenney also announced the notice on the ANJEC “How to be an Effective EC Member” seminar – strongly recommends to revisit skills and current matters of interest, it is a good educational opportunity.

Mr. Kenney added he attended a webinar given by New Jersey Highlands Coalition, regarding riparian buffers and the examples used were the riparian Woodland Ave stream along Ginty Park under Dwyer Lane. The Township was a good steward of the stream, one of the purposes is to mitigate run off. Buz Kenney will circulate the recording once it comes in.

Brian Morgan added the EC reference sheet was circulated for new members – would like to continue to use it as a reference or have help contributing to it.

Charlie Schachter – Annual Township calendar, leaf collection page could be worded different. There was a discussion regarding leaf collection in the Township, the outreach committee could address it during the august meeting.

Siva Jonnada provided an update on the WRWAC – Mary Ellen Murray, Bud Ravitz and Rachel Linden are Township representatives, the most of all municipalities.

Cathy Wilson really likes new reporting system, shortens meeting time and nice to have a record after.

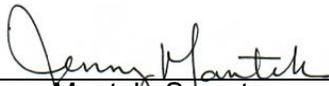
Buz Kenney added Jennifer Coffey from ANJEC would be available for site review process seminar and will put together content of webinar. We may be doing this with Madison's EC and possibly Chatham/Chatham Twp. We would be hosting it- it is in the works.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Adjournment**

The Environmental Commission meeting was adjourned 9:07 P.M. in the Municipal Building, 50 Woodland Avenue, and Township of Morris.

Respectively Submitted by:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny Mantek, Secretary  
Township of Morris Environmental Commission  
Approved: