

**TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

The meeting of the Township of Morris Environmental Commission was called to order by Buz Kenney on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7:01pm via Zoom Webinar.

Statement of Adequate Notice

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Members Present

Buz Kenney
Cecile Kent
Joshua Saks
Siva Jonnada

Tim Quinn, Twp. Administrator
Jim Slate, Twp. Engineer
Cathy Wilson, Twp. Committeeperson
Bud Ravitz, Twp. Committeeperson
Annaliese Rush, Secretary

Members Absent

Barbara Buda
Jennifer Carcich
Tilly Jo Emerson
Brian Morgan
Mary Ellen Murray

Associate Members Present

John Landau
Ned Gardner
Charlie Schachter
Steve Tractenberg

Associate Members Absent

Leslie Jones-Wentz
Sanjay Sharma

Approval of Minutes—Cece Kent moved to approve the minutes and the motion was approved.

New Applications from the Planning Board

PB-08-21, Morris County Housing Authority, Senior Housing project on Ketch Road—Jim Slate reported that they are looking to add six gas generators to existing structures. TCC has not met with

them. We need noise reports and still need to ascertain size of the generators. Jim has not inspected the site yet, but whomever from EC is going to take on this project can coordinate with Jim to go inspect the site before next Thursday's TCC meeting.

Buz is going to develop a standard report as he feels that, due to our current climate and continued severe storms, there will be more projects like this involving emergency generators. Therefore, he will develop a standard report so we don't "kill a lot of brain cells in the future on generator reviews." Buz will touch base with Jim Slate tomorrow to find a good time to inspect the site.

PB-09-21, Order of St. Benedict of NJ, Delbarton--additional generator proposed for their housing units. There are two buildings that serve as residences in the rear of the property, and they are situated about 200 feet off of the right-of-way line from Sugarloaf Road in the back of the site. Buz will investigate this one also.

PB-10-21, Morris marketplace, redevelopment of Colgate Property. This application was previously before the planning board. The commercial section recently came back in for some modifications-- one of the lead tenants wants a generator which will be adjacent to Mennen Drive near the front of the building. They lost Panera as a tenant, but it looks like Starbucks will be in there with a drive through. There will be some modifications to the footprint of the building, so there will be two different tenants, Habit Burger and Starbucks, instead of just one. No one volunteered for this project either, so Buz will take it as well.

Jim reported that there are no new applications coming into the Board of Adjustments.

Josh Saks reported on the project to convert the existing TD Bank building on Madison Avenue to a Dunkin' Donuts. They want to leave the drive through in place but use it for ordered pickups. Some of landscaping is damaged and needs to be replaced, and the stormwater management system needs to be reviewed. Some Dunkin' Donuts around the country are installing EV charging stations, and we are recommending they try to implement electric car charging stations at this location also.

Part of the formalization of the EC meeting process is to ensure that reports are prepared and submitted in advance of the meeting. This includes site visits, committee reports, and any other reports. Buz indicated that EC members need to get reports in between four and five days in advance of the meeting so that members can review them in advance of the meeting. Additionally, the Engineering Department has a lot of projects and we need to allow them sufficient time to review the reports in advance of our meeting.

Buz indicated there was no correspondence so the next topic is general business.

- 1) NJ Department of Community Affairs has released a press release about a statewide ordinance that appears to indicate that Morris Township and a number of other municipalities have adopted ordinances that seek to promote electric vehicle charging in new developments. (This is a situation similar to plastic bags.) In recognition of the disparate treatment by these local ordinances, a model statewide municipal ordinance will be developed and posted. The concept is out but the actual ordinance has not yet been posted. This is huge! New Jersey is in the forefront of so many environmental things—we are leading the charge now. Mark Gyorfy said anyone else on Township Committee involved should give themselves a pat on the back because this is a big win.

- 2) The shirts are in, and Buz will be delivering them in the next few days. They came in under budget at \$23, they really look great, and he would appreciate payment upon delivery. He accepts checks.
- 3) This year, Brian Morgan and others have submitted an application to ANJEC for recognition during their October congress where they recognize various ECs for projects during the year. Buz is hoping we get that recognition in the form of a nice plaque we can display proudly in the Municipal Building. The project we're submitting is the composting webinar and subsequent composter sale that we did jointly with Madison and the Chatham's.
- 4) Tim and Buz were on a zoom call this morning with a representative from Grow it Green in Morristown, and there's a possibility that the winter's farmers' market that's been held at Morris Museum may be held at the Convent Station railroad depot parking lot. We're not sponsors but the farmers' market is more than happy to have our presence there. Hopefully we can do some outreach in connection with this. Bad news is it's on Sundays so it may conflict with people's religious worship/family time. This activity starts in December.
- 5) Reminder: Buz has not received any webinars from anyone in a while, so if you take one, please shoot Buz an email with name, date, and host of it so he can log it.
- 6) FYI: In today's mail, Buz and everyone on EC will be receiving the Code of Conduct and consent to background check—this is simply an online criminal background check and is not onerous to complete. It's part of the EC's effort to enroll student members. The second part is a series of rules we have to follow when interfacing with student members, and it basically states that unless we're in a formal meeting, there can be no personal interface or one-on-one meetings with students. This is nothing different than what an individual is required to complete to coach soccer in the Township, for example.

Subcommittee Reports

Buz indicated that if you don't have anything to report, let him know a couple of days beforehand so that he can keep track of it. If you do have something to report, also let him know a couple of days beforehand so it can be distributed to everyone in sufficient time before the meeting.

We're going to have some open positions on the EC, and hopefully after the next Township Committee meeting we will start looking for Green Team members. If you know of anyone with an environmental bent who wants to get involved, let Buz know and/or encourage them to contact the Township Administrator's office and complete a volunteer form so they are of record, as this is a precedent for them to be considered for either the EC or Green Team.

- 1) Composting—Brian not present and no report
- 2) Conservation: John said only update is that perhaps as many three EC members will attend urban forestry training over the next six weeks. It's the state's core training.
- 3) Energy Aggregation: nothing new to report except that pamphlets and a poster will be available at the Fall Festival, and we will be able to talk about them. We should get more proactive about this by year-end.
- 4) Energy Efficiency: Tim reported that the vendor has completed the onsite visits and we anticipate their report year-end.
- 5) Master plan – unfortunately no progress
- 6) Green vehicles – no progress
- 7) Sustainable Jersey—no one on call

- 8) Solar—Solar team is going through a prioritization process, so they will have some items to report for next meeting.
- 9) Outreach—Charlie submitted a report that was included with this meeting's reports. The August issue of the EC newsletter was published; additionally, for next month there is a list of articles we are looking to publish, including climate change based upon the recently released UN report. For the Festival on the Green:
 - i. He created a signup genius so people can sign up for a shift.
 - ii. If anyone has oak trees, please collect acorns and email Jenn Carcich directly and we can coordinate a drop off.
 - iii. Anyone who can't sign up for a shift, please come by, wear your EC shirt, and answer any questions people may have.
 - iv. He also wants to thank the Township for allowing use of constant contact system for the newsletter.

Buz thanked Tim and his staff for getting check and certificate of insurance in on time to the Morristown Partnership, and we very much appreciate the Township providing us the money to participate in the festival.

Buz noted that there's been no indication the Festival on the Green will be cancelled even though Morris County is an area of high transmission (of Covid-19). Tent is 10x10 feet with tables so it's a small space without significant ventilation, so he strongly encourages anyone who volunteers to wear a mask.

He will bring some N95 masks, and Tim indicated he has an extra supply of masks as well.

Buz placed an order for woven nylon bags that are dark green with white printing of Morris Township Environmental Commission and the Township seal on one side. He did not take into account the shipping costs, so he had to reduce the number of bags to 350 from 500, but he thinks we will still have sufficient bags to give out at the Festival.

Regional Reports: Buz still working with Northern Jersey Sustainable Municipal Alliance on a climate action plan template as all municipalities in NJ are working under a mandate to have one. John indicated they are working on next Spring's Climate action plan. John will send the climate action plan to the EC members.

Public Commentary: No members of the public were on the call.

Commentary by Commission Members

Cathy indicated she's very excited about the Festival on the Green, the electric charging ordinance, and Farmer's Market. The GreenTeam will be on the agenda for the Township Committee meeting on Tuesday.

Bud echoed Cathy's remarks, and he said that he discussed moving the farmers market to Convent Station parking lot with Tim, and they are working out details to make it happen. Other than that, he's hoping tonight's meeting comes in under one hour. Buz said that Brian Morgan attended a Madison EC meeting and they do everything by written report, there is no commentary, and the only thing they do at the meeting is discuss ongoing projects, so they always end the meetings in one hour maximum.

Cece said that besides energy aggregation stuff and acorns at table, what else will be at table? Buz said some BPU clean energy brochures, but he's having trouble getting in touch with anyone there. Charlie indicated he has five different stations and he can circulate a report of what will be there to the EC members.

Buz said it is important to get everyone who stops by the EC tent at the Festival on the Green, whether Township residents or not, to sign up for our newsletter so they can learn about what we are doing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.