

Clinton Township Environmental Committee - Meeting Minutes

Date: November 2, 2023

Start Time: 7:04 pm

This meeting is held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, NJSA 10:4-1 et seq. Annual notice having been forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.

Roll Call

Voting members:

- Mario Caballero, Chair
- Geoff Varty, Vice Chair
- Sandra Millward
- Doug Pecota
- Robert Parkanyi
- Danielle Kearsley
- Ameilia Reitman, Alternate #1
- Dan Aguanno, Alternate #2

Non-voting members:

- Amy Switlyk, Council Liaison
- Chris Sotiro, Watershed Ambassador

Absent:

Sandra Millward

Sandra Butcher (Planning Board Liaison)

Introduction of Amelia Reitman

Ameilia is a Junior at North Hunterdon High School and part of the Environmental Club. She works on the Pollinator Garden. Appointed to the Clinton Township Environmental Commission at the October 25th Council meeting.

Introduction of Dan Aguanno

Outdoors man that moved into the area in 2020. Dan would like to help out as much as he can. Appointed to the Clinton Township Environmental Commission at the October 25th Council meeting.

Open to Public

- No public attendees

Approve Minutes

- The October Meeting minutes will be voted on during the December meeting.

Correspondence

- Tewksbury Twp. Environmental Commission - Letter of support against rezoning

- Letter was acknowledged.
- Solstice - Requesting a letter of support for Community Solar
 - Community solar is a solar farm that gets built and anyone in the area can subscribe to that solar farm and therefore the energy you use will come from that solar farm. Guaranteed to save 10% - 20% of your solar bill. We receive 10 points for sustainable jersey with an additional 50 points possible. The letter is not binding, we can pull out whenever we want. We are not locked to just this company. We voted to write a letter to endorse the community solar. Mario, Rob and Geoff voted in favor of sending a letter. Dan was not in favor. Danielle, Doug, Emilia, and Amy abstained from voting. Move forward with the letter.
- 32 South Gate Drive - Block 82.18, Lot 49
 - Application for a freshwater wetlands general permit - Dam Reconstruction project.
- Bridge Reconstruction - Pine Hill Rd & Camp Buck Rd.
 - Notification of Hunterdon County applying for Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit and Freshwater Wetlands General Permit

Reports

- **Council**
 - Property at the corner lot of Route 31 and Molasses Hill Road. Was donated to Clinton Township, 5.62 acres.
 - Weeding of the milkweed at Windy Acres.
 - GeoCaching project underway at Township properties.
 - Mushroom Education for foraging in May and November.
- **Planning Board**
 - No Planning Board update this month.
- **Open Space (Doug)**
 - Mike will remain as chair. Meetings will be held four times per year.
 - Bees at Prostack West.
 - Hackets trail needs to be reopened. There needs to be signs on the kiosk. Amy will talk to Les.
 - Cramers Creek Disc Golf Course.
 - No parking signs for Herman Thau.
 - Possible Acquisition: 92 Acres off Allerton Road. Going to be assessed at 1.5 million. Will apply for a grant from the County to purchase half of it.
 - Eighteen deer have been harvested so far on the Township properties.
- **Green Team (Mario)**
 - NHHS Pollinator Garden/Meadow update: Complete. Three levels. First level is a water area. Second level is a meadow area. Last one is more perennials. We applied for a sustainable jersey grant and that is how we got this.
 - Adopt-a-Station litter cleanup. Litter clean up on Saturday, November 4th at 9AM.

- **Site Plan Review Subcommittee**
 - Teen Challenge Project App. - One application for the Teen Challenge Project for the board of adjustments.

- **Watershed Ambassador**
 - No updates this month

Old business

- Amy - Fountain Motel - 165-251 of the Clinton Code, a Soil Disturbance and Grading Plan & 165-76 – Stream Corridor Protection.
 - NJDEP is backed up. The owner has not yet been formerly cited.
- Mario - ANJEC 2023 Environmental Congress report - Friday, October 13
 - Amy was granted the municipal leadership award.
 - Adapt Training - Rutgers Class. What are the projections of sea level rises and flooding.
 - Olivia Grand region 2 staff epa.
 - NJDEP Commissioner with Sean Latourrette.
 - Amy Attended the warehouse talk.
 - Mario attended and found it very valuable.
- Danielle - Stormwater Informational Pamphlets
 - Brochure has been printed.
- Danielle - Rockaway Creek microbial report
 - The Readington Township Environmental Commission collected their last 3 sample collections on Monday 10/30. She's analyzing the samples for E.coli/MST (human marker) at RC23P as a base line, then one at Windy Acres and one at Nelson St.
- Mario - Seeds purchased for Community Day
 - Keep the seeds until next year for Community Day. No objections.
- Doug - Exxon Dam removal
 - No update.
 - Will draft a letter requesting an update. To a vote to send a letter requesting an update. Rob moved the motion, Doug seconded. All in favor.
- Mario - Hunterdon Env. Academy - Rock Salt sampling
 - How much rock salt Clinton Township used last year? Mario will reach out to Jay.
 - Last year we collected samples through salt watch. Four locations Rockaway Creek, Beaver Brook, South Branch, and Cramer's Creek. Last year we collected baselines.
- Doug - Bamboo Ordinance
 - Ordinance was requested by a citizen.
 - There are over 4,000 species of bamboo. There are few that are native.
 - The invasives in this area are from Asia where the climate is similar to our area.
 - Chokes out the native plants.
 - Doug moved the motion to move forward with the ordinance. Mario seconded the motion. All in favor except for Robert. Suggested that we take Readington's Ordinance and have our attorney review it. Amy will present it to the Council at the meeting this coming Wednesday.

New Business

- Mario - 2024 budgets: CTEC & Green Team
 - Two budgets - split in two as per recommended by B. Glaser.
- Mario - Styrofoam Recycling Program - <https://www.foamcycle.com/>
 - Need to have a location for the collection.
 - Danielle moved the motion, Rob seconded the motion. All in favor.

- Dan - ERI for Exxon Property Block 30 Lots 17, 30, & 41
 - Impressed with the Environmental Commission.
 - Exxon wants to monetize the property.
 - The ERI from the Highlands.
 - Warehouses is not a permitted in our Town.
 - There is over 700 acres.
 - Suggesting two things.
 1. Town support. Ask council for a resolution.
 2. Dedicated Sub-Committee. Committee with other towns.
 - Site plan review committee for anything that comes through.
 - Mario suggested that Dan write a letter to send to the Council.
 - Mario reiterated that this team does not acquire land.
 - Moved the motion Rob, Geoff seconded all in favor. MC to draft a letter for the next meeting.
- Danielle - Round Valley is at 2/3 capacity. They are starting to pump on November 13th at 40 MGD.
- Mario - Discuss plans for the EV Show for the next meeting of the Green Team.

Motion to Adjourn - motion from DP seconded by DK. Meeting adjourned at 09:28 pm.