

**Pitman Environmental Commission**  
**February 6, 2020**

**Chairman Robert Holwitt**

The regular meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission was held on Thursday February 6, 2020 at 7:30.

**ATTENDANCE:** Bob Holwitt; Tom Slenkamp; Josh Hitchner; Ellen Brooks; Dare Euler; Claire Yeager; Patrice Sheehan; Dani Cooke, Councilperson Amy Rudley

**PUBLIC:** Gabrielle Bowen – concerned about recycling – neighbors don't do a good job. Would education help and what can we do about it? Bob explained about problem with plastic bags in recycling that causes an extra fee. We are looking for ways to educate – Karen Powlaski has assigned several HS students to do a YouTube segment on recycling. They have forwarded script to Fred for his approval. Then Bob will work with them. Also as ANJEC members we got a letter about “no plastics” about pollution from single use plastic bags, but this bill was not passed at Assembly. They are willing to help if we want to work on an ordinance. Claire asked about the recycle coach app. Dani said a Borough employee has to sign up for it. We just got a reminder about this. Dare was working on a flyer to share with kids. She will continue this. Gabrielle is administrator for Grove facebook page and she would love to share an approved list. Discussion about take out containers and whether a plastic bag ban is effective. Dani spoke about samples of sustainable packaging. Rewarding businesses, inventory of what they are supplying were also suggested. Josh suggested a letter to businesses about new guidelines. Chamber meeting is also a good time to bring this up. Bob would go to the Chamber meeting if we can bring samples. County is working on “choose to reuse” and that might be a good resource. Josh will draft a letter. Dani shared what NC Durham did, passed an ordinance not allowing municipal taxes to purchase single use containers. We could install a filling station at Borough hall – could use recycling money. Community days might need to be an exception. Josh asked about checking recycle containers – some clearly have plastic bags hanging out. Is there a way to stop this being picked up? Tagging them could be an option, and code enforcement.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made to approve December minutes by Josh, second Dare, all in favor. Motion was made to approve January minutes by Tom, second Ellen, all in favor, passed.

**BUDGET:** Jan 31<sup>st</sup> Temporary Budget: Unexpended includes Secretary:\$161.89, O/E: 52.50, Materials & Supply: \$52.50, Training & Seminar: \$13.13, Alcyon Lake Testing: \$918.75, Earth Day Events: \$525.00, Misc: \$13.13, Tree Replacement: \$210.00, Special Projects: \$262.50. Dues & Subscriptions (ANJEC): paid \$490 leaving -\$395.00 for a total of \$1771.90.

Ellen asked if we could budget for trees from State Forestry for \$110 to get better species. Ellen can pick up April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Could get 2 different oaks. Motion to spend \$110 from Special Projects to purchase 125 trees for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders by Ellen, second Tom all in favor. Josh abstained from voting.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

**Air and Water:** Ellen Brooks: Pesticide treatments are coming up, and she has been reaching out to Andy . Last year they used an organic fertilizer. But they still use pesticides in Ballard Park & elsewhere, where kids run around barefoot. Amy would like to work on this with parks. Discussed the resolution that has been passed committing to using least toxic method & IPM (Integrated Pest Management). Kens has been used as a contractor, maybe we need someone familiar with IPM so that we won't overuse. NJ Bluebird society has 2 people who maintain houses in Alcyon Park, & live right in town. Ellen will contact them and work with them.

**Open Space:** Dani Cooke: Update on walk with Andy 1/23/20 with Ellen & Patrice – making locations for 50 new trees. A lot of replacing trees and planting in wet site and arboretum. Bob wants Parks to pay for the trees as they promised when removing trees to create the Disc Golf Course. Patrice spoke about the grant money from ANJEC for \$1500. The timeline however is not good as we would not know if we were awarded until May 12th. Josh said this is too late to plant the trees. They should go in earlier Spring to benefit from rain and cooler temperatures. We could still apply for the grant for another project. Discussed hiring an engineer to remediate edge of Alcyon Lake erosion but the grant is looking for community involvement and Environmental commission benefit of long term visibility. Bob

will get estimate from Solitude for this. A project that would fit the grant better is a pollinator garden in Grove and removing invasive plants. Josh will get budget for pollinator garden. Patrice will rework grant for this. Dates for these projects: April 4<sup>th</sup> for Volunteer Tree Planting at Alcyon Park (Patrice will get event permit) 9 am  
May 30<sup>th</sup> for Pollinator garden in Grove (Josh will get event permit). 9 am

**Site Plan:** Tom Slencamp: Jan 21<sup>st</sup> was their reorganization. Councilman Fitzpatrick is liaison. Discussion about whether Broadway should be part of historic district. Is this beneficial? Will be discussed further. He also passed around a plan on Sony project, as more activity has taken place. Multi-use facility concept, Rowan is interested in Communication School and indoor track, some housing and retail space. Also presented was a Bicycle and pedestrian plan from DEP grant that he will email to everyone. It calls for improvements mostly at intersections to make it safer.

**Shade Tree:** Josh Hitchner: 2 trees on 7 th Ave, resident concerned about –he is getting estimates for trimming. Tree in Alcyon woods that AC electric will remove. It is already compromised. Storm drain clean out debris is dumped in woods next to the drain. The contractor Kylee most likely has done this, Amy said to pass info on. Next week Josh will work on Tree City Certifications. Can we put the new signs on the same pole as “no parking overnight” signs? Amy will check with Public Safety to see if this is OK. Bob asked about buffer at Alcyon Lake edge – but this is not time yet to cut it back according to Josh.

**Education:** Dare Euler: Climate change assembly – she has contacted Susan Golden for a presentation at middle school. Working on flyer about recycling. Spoke about the garden at Memorial School. They cut down the Cedar tree that was on the school grounds, as well as the cherry trees. We don't know why, HS did the same thing a few years ago. Dare will be at Kindle next year so she doesn't know what will happen with the wildlife garden that is at Memorial.

**Recycling:** Fred Rodi: no report

#### **Lipari/Alcyon:**

Bob entered his summary to the minutes of the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting at the site:

#### Attendees

PEC: Patrice, Ellen, Tom and myself

NJDEP: John Skurat, Tom O'Neill and Claire Yeager

#### Discussion Items

Status of Cleanup: NJDEP to continue operation of Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) for Bis(2-Chloroethyl) Ether (BCEE) as per USEPA  
Activated carbon for controlling landfill vapors  
Groundwater collected and piped to Gloucester County Utilities Authority (GCUA) for treatment, no onsite treatment  
Annual groundwater & surface water sampling for Contaminants of Concern (CoC)  
Remove out of service equipment from site  
Develop pollinator habitat 2020 - 2021  
Upcoming five year review of cleanup

PEC: Longterm: Native habitat (Meadow, trees except for areas directly over cap and liner, and wildlife), solar farm or other  
Community outreach as to Alcyon Lake  
Links to USEPA and/or NJDEP Lipari Landfill information

Claire said 2022 is the next date of review . Bob has a copy of most recent report from 2018. Bob will extract from report about surface water sampling and an update, paraphrasing, perhaps for the Borough newsletter. The DEP will

look into sampling the lake and beyond the immediate area as residents are concerned about this. Discussed adding the report to our PEC website.

**Old Business:**

Alcyon Woods Trail Blazing – Bob will get with Ellen

**New Business:**

Earth Day 2020; Bob has not heard back from Academy to confirm May 16<sup>th</sup> date.

Bob asked if people were on board with advertising now for new secretary as Patrice will be leaving in July. Bob will contact Judy to start the process.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission will be March 5th at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting ended at 9:17, Josh made a motion to adjourn and Dare seconded, all members were in favor.