

Vernon Township Environmental Commission

Minutes: **August 19, 2024**, meeting

Meeting was called to order by Stephanie DiBrienza at 7:00pm

Statement of compliance read by Chair Stephanie DiBrienza

Chair Stephanie DiBrienza led the Commissioners in the pledge of allegiance and salute to the flag.

Roll Call taken for attendance by Chair Stephanie DiBrienza

Stephanie DiBrienza Chair	Present
Barbara Jaggi	Present
Catherina Sawoszczyk	Present
Ann Larsen Land Use Board Liaison	Absent
Debbie Coulson Vice Chair	Absent

Catherina Sawoszczyk volunteered for minutes recorder for tonight's meeting.

Stephanie DiBrienza presented June 17, 2024; meeting minutes written by Catherina Sawoszczyk.

Barbara Jaggi motion to accept minutes as written, Stephanie DiBrienza 2nd the motion, motion carried minutes accepted.

Discussion about the commissioners meeting attendance occurred with Barbara Jaggi suggesting increasing the number of commissioners referencing as the ANJEC Environmental Commissioners' Handbook that each municipality can have up to seven commissioners. Stephanie DiBrienza will follow up with the Mayor Rossi about accepting more volunteers to the commission. Stephanie will also reach out to Debbie Coulson of her status on the commission.

Catherina Sawoszczyk asked why the meeting minutes are not posted on the township website.

Stephanie stated that she had followed up with the township administration office and that they should have the minutes and agendas to post.

Barbara Jaggi stated she had begun reviewing the ANJEC Environmental Commissioners' Handbook that Catherina Sawoszczyk had emailed to all commissioners earlier this year. Barbara reached out to ANJEC and requested copies of the handbook and asked if all members had been made members of ANJEC as required. Barbara stated she was and was receiving the emailed announcements and information ANJEC sends out. Catherina Sawoszczyk stated she was as well and had been forwarding the emails to all commissioners until they were members. Catherina also stated she had reached out to the township clerk earlier in the year to see if the new members of the EC had been signed up and was told that as soon as the budget past, they would be. Stephanie stated she would follow up. Barbara stated she was committed to keeping abreast of environmental issues and being on the commission to make a difference. Catherina and Stephanie agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

July meeting was cancelled.

As follow up to June's meeting Barbara reported that the township was the water source for the Omega Drive 55-unit building, and that there was a township ordinance allowing soil to be brought into any property zoned farmland as per the zoning officer. Stephanie requested the ordinance number.

NEW BUSINESS

Stephanie DiBrienza presented a proposal from Sussex Energy given to her by the mayor's office for review. After review of the commissions past discussions of the NJ State Environmental committee established goals and initiatives and review of the proposal the commissioners voted unanimously to support the town's initiatives on solar power for the township's buildings.

Land Use Board

Land use boards applications under review were discussed.

- 1) 1 Apollo Drive, Block 491, Lot 22 application for accessory buildings requiring multiple variances/ waivers was discussed. Members concerned about SF coverage of property.
- 2) 527 Tahama Road, Block 427, Lot 28 application requesting replacement of an existing mal functioning septic system for a 1 family house on wetlands. Concerns for a septic on wetlands were to be shared.
- 3) 7 Prices Switch Road, Block 228, Lot 3 a commercial property requesting outdoor storage for equipment and supplies behind fencing.

Public Participation

No public present

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioners agreed to continue to search out current environmental issues and opportunities that relate to Vernon township to provide for the protection, development, or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within the township.