

## **Vernon Township Environmental Commission**

Minutes: **January 20, 2025, meeting**

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

**Statement of compliance** read by Chair Stephanie DiBrienza

**Salute to Flag**

**Roll Call** taken by Chair Stephanie DiBrienza

|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| . Stephanie DiBrienza Chair           | Present |
| . Ann Larsen Vice Chair & LUB Liaison | Present |
| . Barbara Jaggi                       | Present |
| . Catherina Sawoszczyk                | Present |
| Debbie Coulson                        | Absent  |

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Guthrie Road**

Discussion about resident concerns for Guthrie Road development. Stephanie to follow to see if any requests for variances were filed with the township or NJDEP.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) **Drought conditions for NJ** were discussed. Acknowledgement that the link voted to be placed on the township web page in October 2024 was present and provided current conditions.
- 2) **Annual Report** for the commission was discussed. Stephanie to give report to the mayor.
- 3) **Resolution** for publication of meeting dates for 2025 was discussed voted on and accepted unanimously by the commission. The third Monday of each month was agreed upon.
- 4) **Resolution 25-2** designating Official Newspaper for 2025 was discussed and agreed upon.
- 5) **Master Plan** was discussed including location and access. Questions as to access where to be directed to the mayor.
- 6) **Open Space Inventory** was discussed.
- 7) An email of introduction was reviewed from Jenna Black, NJ Watershed Ambassador for the Wallkill Watershed area. Commissioners unanimously voted to approve her request to be scheduled on the agenda for educational and resource information.
- 8) PFO's ,a forever chemical, is being found in surface water, sediment, waste water and well water. Ann Larsen spoke to the cost of remediation and grant availability.

### **LAND USE BOARD APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW**

Ann reports no new applications under review.

### **Public Participation**

Mayor Rossi was present. He provided answers to questions the commission had to Master plan location and accessibility. Suggesting reaching out to Irene Mills. Mayor Rossi also updated commission on the January 18,2025 truck accident on route 515 which resulted in a significant heating oil spill which was contained. Thanks to all the agencies involved in the coordinated response. Investigation is ongoing.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Barbara Jaggi suggested more involvement by the commissioners in the ANJEC. Recommending commissioners attempt to attend zoom programs on an alternating bases and reporting back at the monthly meetings. ALL commissioners unanimously agreed.

Catherina Sawoszczyk thanked the mayor for the oil spill updates, again. Also confirmed the Annual April tree sapling give away. All in favor.

Ann Larsen discussed concerns for hazardous astro turf used in the township that can have PFOs that enter ground water.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting February 17,2025

Respectfully submitted by Catherina Sawoszczyk