

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

EDWARD SAMPSON, PP, AICP
Director of Planning

MICHAEL FEDOSH
Council Chairman



Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Monmouth County Environmental Council

Thursday, May 6, 2016 5:00 p.m.

Monmouth County Planning Board Conference Room
Hall of Records Annex, 2nd Floor, One East Main Street
Freehold, New Jersey

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Morrissey called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

She then welcomed the new Planning Board staff liaison, Kyle Clonan, to the MCEC, and suggested he introduce himself to the rest of the MCEC. Mr. Clonan noted his past experience working for the Monmouth County Parks System and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. He received his undergraduate degree in Environmental Science from Fordham University, and now lives in Tinton Falls.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

Members present: Jennifer DiLorenzo, Barbara Horl, David Kostka, Wilma Morrissey (left 6:20pm), Matthew Woolley, France Karras, Ebru Altinsoy (arrived 5:20pm), Mike Fedosh (arrived 5:20pm), and John Vig (arrived 5:30pm).

Members absent: Nicholas Huszar and Scott Thompson.

Staff present: Linda Brennen and Kyle Clonan.

Guests present: Renee Haider, Associate Director, Sustainable Jersey

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES: April 7, 2016

Minutes from the April 7, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Brennen noted an error in attendance on the original minutes, which she revised. Ms. DiLorenzo moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Kostka seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a voice vote, with Mr. Woolley abstaining.

4. OLD BUSINESS-PART 1—Sustainable Jersey

As a courtesy to Ms. Haider, the Vice-Chairman moved the discussion of Sustainable Jersey to the front of the agenda. Discussion focused on the Council's April 7, 2016 letter offering recommendations to the Sustainable Jersey Program, as well as Sustainable Jersey's response letter dated May 3, 2016. Recommendations were reviewed in the order they were addressed in the letters. It was stressed that the Council applauded Sustainable Jersey for providing opportunities to New Jersey's municipalities to incorporate green initiatives; for the organization's overwhelmingly helpful staff; and that the Council's letter was only intended to convey recommendations to ease frustrations existing in the Sustainable Jersey certification process. Ms. Morrissey offered examples

of past successes and frustrations in the Sustainable Jersey certification process for municipalities, and complimented the organization's webinars. Ms. Haider offered insight and reasons for the Sustainable Jersey process from the perspective of a staff member and application reviewer. Ms. Haider stressed that Sustainable Jersey aims to focus on the "spirit of the action" in their reviews, and to not disqualify municipalities based upon technicalities in the process. She encouraged municipalities to appeal and challenge Sustainable Jersey's application decisions if they feel they were denied certification on account of any unfair technicality. She also encouraged open communication throughout the application and certification process to help municipalities best convey their application and work around any troubles they may encounter. Ms. Haider discussed several ways in which Sustainable Jersey is looking to make themselves more credible as the program progresses.

Ms. DiLorenzo added that with the certification process as it is now, it is hard to keep volunteer Green Team members encouraged and active if their application is denied without any recognition of their hard work, and stressed again the need for partial credit for Action Submittals. Mr. Fedosh asked if there were any ways Sustainable Jersey was looking to grow or change. Ms. Haider related several opportunities for expansion, such as their Sustainable Jersey for Schools program, and noted that 80-90% of towns certified in the past re-apply for certification, while the program continues to add approximately 10 new municipalities each year. Ms. Haider concluded by distributing pamphlets on Sustainable Jersey programs, and encouraging members to join Sustainable Jersey for the 2016 NJ Sustainability Summit, June 15, 2016 at The College of New Jersey.

5. REGULAR REPORTS

- Chairman – no report.
- Planning Board – Ms. DiLorenzo invited all present to attend the upcoming Master Plan Open House on May 10, 2016 from 6pm-8pm at the Monmouth County Agricultural Building. Ms. Brennen added details of the agenda for the Open House. The Division of Planning has revised the comment deadline to May 31st. Individual comments should be submitted through the [Master Plan web page](#). Draft text of all chapters can be reviewed from the web page.
- Staff – Ms. Brennen noted that Mr. Dennis Blazak of NWS Earle will join the MCEC for the June 2nd, 2016 meeting. He will present on several environmental projects for NWS Earle, including a solar field, oyster beds, and controlled burns. Ms. Brennen then introduced the 2016 Environmental Commission Directory produced by the Division of Planning Staff for MCEC member use only. It lists contact information for the municipal Environmental Commissions for Monmouth County. Copies were given to MCEC members.
- Legislation – Mr. Woolley reported that the State Legislature has been on Budget Break. He provided an update on Assembly Bill 780, regarding implementation of 2014 constitutional dedication of CBT revenues for certain environmental purposes and revising State's open space, farmland, and historic preservation programs. Mr. Woolley had noted in his April report that the Bill had been passed by both the State Senate and State Assembly, but had been Pocket Vetoed by the Governor. He noted that the once the new Legislative Session begins, the governor will have to either approve the Bill or give full reason as to why he is vetoing the Bill.

6. MASTER PLAN REVIEW

As a follow-up hosting the 2014 Master Plan stakeholder committee meetings for environmentally oriented elements, Ms. Brennen provided a PowerPoint presentation of the *Utilities* chapter, of which she was a primary author. A link to the presentation slides may be found on the Planning Board's webpage. A question and answer period followed.

7. OLD BUSINESS-PART 2—HEP Roundtable

Ms. Karras reported the Borough of Atlantic Highlands has granted the MCEC use of the Atlantic Highlands Senior Center for the MCEC’s Spring Roundtable Event. The MCEC will host the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program for a public workshop at 7pm on May 26, 2016. Discussion will involve HEP’s 5-year Action Agenda, followed by a question and answer session. The Council will need to speak with HEP and inform the Harbormaster how the room needs to be set up. This task was delegated to Mr. Clonan and Ms. Karras.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **Water Supply Resolution**—Mr. Fedosh asked if all MCEC members had reviewed the draft Resolution emailed to members prior to the meeting, and if there were any comments. Mr. Kostka noted it was well written; there were no other comments. Ms. DiLorenzo moved for its adoption. Mr. Fedosh seconded. The resolution was passed with a roll call vote. All present members voted in favor.
 - **Transco Comment Letter**— Chairman Fedosh spoke about the comment letter sent on behalf of the MCEC to the NJ DEP Department of Land Use Regulation in regards to the permit application applied for by Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, LLC (Transco) for a sediment sampling event in the Raritan Bay. There were no further questions.
- 9. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS** –Due to the length of the meeting, Chairman Fedosh tabled the regional reports until the June meeting. Ms. Brennen added that any noteworthy regional reports may be sent to Mr. Clonan to be included in the minutes. Attached are articles added by Ms. Morrissey for the South Coast region.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT: No members of the public were present.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 by Chairman Fedosh.