



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

October 3, 2022

7:00PM

Franklin Township Municipal Building  
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873  
Large Conference Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

### Present:

Paul Walitsky, Chair  
Walter Andrews, Vice-Chair  
Stan Jaracz  
Arnold Schmidt  
Tara Kenyon, AICP/PP – Sustainability Consultant  
Santiago Valera – Intern

### Excused:

Ted Chase  
Maria Santiago  
Jessica Johnson  
Robin Suydam

### CALL TO ORDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6)

7:08pm

### CHAIR REPORT

Chairman Paul Walitsky provided a brief report. He expressed his gratitude on behalf of the entire commission to Maria Santiago and Stan Jaracz for holding the energy aggregation session on September 29<sup>th</sup>. It was very well attended and informative. Chairman Walitsky added that in speaking with members of the public, a more restrictive township anti-idling ordinance is desired. He has spoken briefly to Township Manager Bob Vornlocker about this matter, which will be discussed later during the meeting.

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Stan Jaracz made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2022 Environmental Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Walter Andrews. All agreed, and the motion carried.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

A motion was made to open the Public Comment portion of the meeting by Arnold Schmidt and seconded by Stan Jaracz. All agreed and the motion carried.

Hearing no requests for public comment, a motion to close the Public Comment period was made by Walter Andrews and seconded by Stan Jaracz. All agreed, and the motion carried.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Jessica Johnson emailed ahead of the meeting stating that there was no email correspondence to report on at this meeting.

Chairman Walitsky provided a letter received from Bohler Engineering notifying the Township that a modification to the Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation was being submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the Belmont Road Warehouse Project (currently under construction).

Chairman Walitsky provided a notice of application for a Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation and Line of Flood Disturbance Interpretation to NJDEP for the 2135 and 2145 Amwell Road Project.

Stan Jaracz reported that the Divestment New Jersey initiative is now before a committee of the New Jersey Senate. Additionally, amendments to the New Jersey Plastic Bag Ban are being developed to address the growing problem of delivery. Customers are now receiving new reusable bags every time they get delivery, and therefore are unable to reuse them as designed.

#### SITE PLAN REVIEW

##### *McDonald's Corporation*

Chairman Walitsky reviewed the plans for the McDonald's Corporation to develop a McDonald's restaurant on Easton Avenue, with access from a shared driveway on JFK Boulevard. This restaurant would replace the existing Burger King restaurant, and has proposed a total of 116 parking spaces, with 2 corresponding EV Charging Stations. Paul's review and comments from the Commission included:

- According to the EV Charging Station Act, 5 EV Make-Ready parking spaces are required
- Pervious pavement should be incorporated where feasible to reduce stormwater runoff
- Clarification is requested on the tree replacement calculations
- Parking spaces should be banked for future use – this will reduce the impervious coverage on the site and allow for additional trees to be planted
- Anti-Idling signage should be placed around in the parking area

Tara Kenyon will draft the memorandum from the Environmental Commission to Christine Woodbury, Secretary for Planning and Zoning.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

##### *Education and Outreach Committee*

Stan reported that the Energy Aggregation Session was very well attended, and that the speakers from Sustainable Jersey and Gabel Associates were very impressive. Based on some confusion from the public, it is recommended that the Environmental Commission hold an additional session or distribute additional educational materials about the upcoming question on the November 8<sup>th</sup> Ballot.

No other Subcommittee Reports were submitted at this time.

#### ANTI-IDLING ORDINANCE

Chairman Walitsky reported that in speaking with Township Manager Bob Vornlocker, it is recommended that the municipal ordinance simply reference the State's legislation and incorporate the Township's additional requirements, rather than reiterating the State's legislation throughout the ordinance. Tara Kenyon added that she also spoke with the Township Manager and received the same feedback.

Arnold Schmidt agreed that this makes sense and that adding in the more restrictive requirements of the Township is all that needs to be described in depth throughout the ordinance.

Tara Kenyon and Santiago Valera (Intern) will work on these edits and bring a final draft to the Environmental Commission before resubmitting to the Township Manager.

### TREE REPLACEMENT ORDINANCE

Tara Kenyon distributed the existing municipal Tree Replacement Ordinance as part of the agenda and meeting materials in advance of this meeting. Tara described research she did regarding Tree Replacement Ordinances in Princeton Township, demonstrating similarities (caliper of trees required for replacement, allowance for “in-lieu of planting” payments) and difference (Princeton has a 2-year maintenance bond requirement, and calculates the tree replacement percentages differently than Franklin Township).

Arnold Schmidt asked if the letter approved by the Environmental Commission at the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was sent to Bob Vornlocker. Chairman Walitsky responded that it was not sent yet, but that he would send it the next day.

Tara Kenyon recommended that she first find the information being requested in the letter, bring it back to the Commission for review, and then use this as the basis for drafting an amended ordinance. Any outstanding policy questions or dialogue about the proposed amendments could then be discussed between the Commission and Council. She stated that presenting the Manager and Township Council with proposed amendments would save time and would provide the Commission with the information they were requesting in their letter, being that many of these answers could be found through her work and coordination with the Township Planner. Arnold Schmidt responded that the Commission voted on sending the letter to the Township Council so it should still be sent now, and then Tara could coordinate with the Township Planner to get the responses to the questions afterwards.

Chairman Walitsky will review the letter and send it to Bob Vornlocker as soon as possible.

### LOCAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Tara Kenyon reported that Staff has attended all of Franklin Township’s Back to School Nights to promote the survey. So far, over 350 responses have been submitted, and the planning of strategic focus groups is underway. She added that she will be holding a Focus Group in late October for people who are interested in environmental matters and sustainability, and asked that any Commissioner interested can reach out to her directly.

### SUSTAINABLE JERSEY RECERTIFICATION

Tara Kenyon reported that she is still waiting to hear about the status of the Township’s application for Silver Certification. The response is anticipated for the next meeting.

### ADJOURNMENT

Walter Andrews made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Stan Jaracz. All agreed, and the Environmental Commission adjourned its meeting at 9:05pm.

***The next meeting of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2022 at 7:00PM.***