

WTEAC Minutes February 20, 2020

Meeting opened under the Sunshine Law at 7:12 p.m.
Attendance (Roll Call) by Secretary Ellen Smith

Present: Chairperson Wilma Morrissey, Vice Chair Bob Kilmurray, Secretary Ellen Smith, Township Committeeman Tim Farrell, John Ozell, Joe Balesterri, Scott Burke and Greg Wolek.
Absent: Hance Sitkus.

Guests: Mayor George Newberry, Jeff Bertrand, Administrator; Amanda Brockwell, Deputy Executive Director, Monmouth Conservation Foundation; and Christine Winter, Assistant Planner, Assistant Land Use Officer

Motion for January Minutes. Motion: Joe Balesterri 2nd: Tim Farrell

Mayor George Newberry and Jeff Bertrand spoke about the Community Solar Farm Project proposed in the West Belmar Gateway Redevelopment zone, with Spano Electric. The plan has been put forth and is partially approved. A percentage of the electricity produced will go to low income users in the area. A strategic energy management (SEM) program will incorporate shared power rates. The town's goal is to be ready by the end of the year. The Solar Farm will be on a 35 year lease. 25 spots of municipal parking will be created near Rash field. Wall Twp. will monitor the wells.

Now that Atlantic Farms has closed, there are 3 farms looking to take over the property.

The town would like to make the bike path cross Route 138.

The airport received a \$5 million grant to improve the runway. There's talk of a new hotel going in.

Amanda Brockwell discussed the McDowell property as well as the Conover Farm on W. Hurley Pond Road. She let us know that The Navy, through NWS, Earl has grant money for Open Space for communities that buffer the base.

Christine Winter is working on Sustainable Jersey. She let us know the town's master plan is revised every 10 years. She is updating the Open Space plan.

Wilma and Joe discussed preserving buffers along the Route 34 corridor.

Sustainable Jersey Projects – May 2020 Deadline for Re-Certification projects. Green team members are working on their respective projects.

Green Business Recognition Program – Members are requested to submit applications for 2020.

The chair submitted 9-11 Grant Memorial Interpretive Sign to Sustainable Jersey. Application Deadline was Friday, February 14. Announcement will be in early April.

Update on Poster, Poetry, and Essay school competitions: Essays and poetry will be picked up on Friday, April 3rd and the posters will be picked up on Tuesday, April 21st. The Poetry Ceremony at the Intermediate School will be on Friday, May 8 at 9:30AM.

The Essay Ceremony at the High School will be on Friday, May 8th at 12PM.
The Poster Ceremony at Town Hall will be on Sunday, May 17th at 12:30PM.

ANJEC Dues have been paid.

Arbor Day is on Friday, April 25th. Scott will contact an assisted living facility in town to schedule an Arbor Day program for Saturday, April 26th.

Forest Green WTEAC Logo shirts with Clean Communities Logo on sleeve were distributed.

Attachments: Scenic Wall Township Open Space- Developed and undeveloped sites brochure, 9-11 sign wording and photo, WTEAC meeting schedule, WTEAC member phone/address listing, Sustainable Jersey worksheet, Monmouth County Environmental Council calendar of events, Article on Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, Article: Connecticut Concedes, Allows Tesla to Lease in State, Article: Ban on Styrofoam, paper and plastic bags hits snag, a copy of Legislation **S864 ScaSa (2R) Prohibits provision or sale of single-use plastic carryout bags, single-use paper carryout bags, and polystyrene foam food service products; limits provision of single-use plastic straws; appropriates moneys from Clean Communities Program Fund for public education. 2nd Reading in the Senate.**

Adjournment- 9:23PM Motion Scott Burke 2nd Bob Kilmurray

Prepared by Ellen Smith