



LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes February 16, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll

Present: Chair Phil Wooldridge, Vice Chair Dan Kurela, Tom Webster, Rich Larsen first alternate Diane Gonski, second alternate Helen Danitz Absent: Joanne Ward, Doug Hankin, Maureen Bonner

Public Comment None

Approval of minutes

Mr. Kurela made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2017 meeting, seconded by Mr. Webster. All in favor.

Communications None

Old Business

Dark Skies Ordinance: Mr. Kurela met with Mr. Snyder to discuss the possibility of a Dark Skies Ordinance in Liberty Twp. Mr. Snyder recommended Mr. Kurela attend a Land Use Board meeting. Mr. Wooldridge and Mr. Kurela attended the February meeting to inform the Land Use Board about the Dark Skies Initiative and get feedback for the development of an ordinance in Liberty Twp. It was suggested that the LTEC further investigate to determine if there is a need for one in Liberty Twp. Mr. Kurela will organize a survey that will be made available to the community online, as well as investigate other ordinances on light pollution that could be used for the development of one here. Mr. Kurela also reached out the ANJEC to see if there were any sample ordinances or ordinances similar in nature. There are very few ordinances established regarding light pollution and the preservation of the night sky, most ordinances are geared for commercial lighting. Ms. Schaaf will reach out to the Municipal Land Use Center for some guidance. Mr. Kurela drafted a survey that would be available on the town website. The survey will identify the need for a residential lighting ordinance. Mr. Kurela will look into online survey sites and email to members.

Proposed anti-rooftop solar array ordinance: Mr. Wooldridge updated the commission stating that this is not really an ordinance, but more of just a concern regarding larger solar farms. There has been no further updates to the commission.

Northridge Lake Property & ANJEC Open Space Stewardship grant: Received a proposal for \$2100 to conduct a nocturnal and diurnal survey of insects on the property. Wild Ridge Plants also submitted a proposal to the LTEC for \$3525 to conduct a flora and fauna survey of the property and provide guidance for recreational use. More to be discussed in March.

Bird House Project with Hannah Donnelly: Hannah Donnelly, a local Girl Scout seeking support for her Gold Award project as well as suggested projects that are needed. Mr. Wooldridge recommended Ms. Donnelly reach out to Mr. Parke at the Audubon Society and attend a Township Committee meeting. Ms. Donnelly will keep in touch.

March 25th Community Workshop: Cabin fever workshop to offer free to the community. LTEC will provide a craft and public viewing of Hometown Habitat. A motion was made by Ms. Gonski to approve expenses to purchase a small viewing of the movie and twig ball supplies for about \$150. Seconded by Mr. Larsen, all in favor. Event will be held March 25th from 9:30 – 11:45 am.

New Business

NJ Tree Recovery Program Free Trees: Ms. Schaaf will apply for 400 tree seedlings for a May 6th tree giveaway event. LTEC will invite neighboring towns to promote the event.

Thank you gift: The LTEC will be looking into a commemorative plaque/sundial as a thank you to Ms. Greason for all her years of service to the Environmental Commission. Ms. Schaaf will research and email to everyone.

Liberty Twp. Newsletter: Ms. Schaaf will draft and email to Mr. Wooldridge a half page of upcoming events from the LTEC to be included in the newsletter. Including: Cabin Fever workshop, Tree Giveaway, EC meetings, Dark Skies Initiative and Survey.

Commission Member Reports

None

Approval of Expenditures

Cabin Fever workshop expense of about \$150 for event materials. Ms. Gonski made the motion. All in favor.

Commissioner and Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Schaaf
Approved 3/16/2017