



BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

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Meeting Minutes
Shrewsbury Environmental Commission
Thursday, September 15, 2011
Municipal Building, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

Chairwoman Jill Gwydir began the meeting at 7:57pm by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Presiding Officer's Statement in compliance with P.L. 1975 c.231, the Public Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Bonnie Brookes. Present were Chairwoman Jill Gwydir and members, Kathy Loder-Murphy, Robin Blair, Tim Thomas, and Mark Degenhart.

Planning and Zoning

Chairwoman Gwydir stated that there was an application for solar panels for a business on Shrewsbury Avenue but stated that she did not believe a variance is required because it is not impervious coverage. Mr. Thomas stated that it was easier to go through the variance process than argue with municipalities over the legality of it. He explained that solar panels were deemed pervious by Governor Christie, so by adding solar panels it does not change the impervious coverage of a property. Mr. Thomas stated that the plans did not have a lot of detail but it looks like the panels will be 15 feet above the parking lot on poles and that they will be replacing some concrete with grass pavers, therefore reducing the impervious coverage. Mr. Thomas explained that originally people did not pay for the panels but rather just paid 90% of the energy cost till the panels were paid off in addition to receiving a direct check from the state which is now a tax credit instead. He stated that currently you can buy or rent the systems.

Chairwoman Gwydir stated that there is an application to reduce the amount of impervious coverage at Shrewsbury Plaza for Colonial Bank. Mr. Thomas stated that they are constructing a landscape island to redirect traffic creating a drive-through for the bank and explained that it will not change the storm water lines. Mr. Thomas asked what the current condition of the final outfall of the storm water system stating he was concerned with the erosion issue.

Ms. DerAsadourian entered the meeting at 8:16pm.

Ms. DerAsadourian stated that patio.com wanted to set up a showroom for patio furniture in the summer and pool tables in the winter at the old Sunco gas station on Route 35. Chairwoman Gwydir asked if they believed the owner could get an eighteen wheeler around that corner and questioned if the neighbors were concerned with deliveries to the location. Ms. DerAsadourian stated that the owner explained that there would only be 3 to 4 deliveries a year. Ms. Blair asked if anyone has had an issue with the trucks backing up to Bagel Masters and expressed concern over the garbage. Ms. DerAsadourian stated that Sunoco shares a driveway with Monmouth Stereo and said that the owner does not believe that parking would be an issue. She explained that the plan needs to be revised and they need to change the landscaping. Chairwoman Gwydir stated that they have no environmental issues with the application.

Membership

Chairwoman Gwydir stated that the Environmental Commission has a new member, Tim Thomas. She welcomed him to the Environmental Commission and stated that they were happy to have him as a member.

Hydrofracking

Chairwoman Gwydir stated that Mr. Degenhart had sent her an e-mail about a movie called "Gasland" about hydrofracking. A few members stated that they had seen it and Mr. Degenhart suggested that the Environmental Commission should watch it together. Mr. Thomas stated that Governor Christie made a decision on the issue of hydrofracking. Mr. Degenhart stated that the decision was a non-issue because New Jersey does not have an area that could be used for fracking so there are no political ramifications for his decision.

Expenses

Chairwomen Gwydir stated that they had \$300 from Community Partners which was deposited and set aside for the Green Team projects. She said that \$100 went to the rain garden and \$87 for "no idling" zone signs. Ms. DerAsadourian asked if they could buy signs for "no single use water bottles" for the parks. Chairwoman Gwydir suggested requesting a sign about the disposable water bottles be put up at each of the four parks and suggested that the Environmental Commission push the pledge on baseball Sunday. She stated that she will try to make the reusable water bottle resolution fit into the Sustainable NJ program and stated that she was worried that the Project Porch light would expire before the application was submitted.

Mr. Degenhart left the meeting at 8:37pm.

Chairwomen Gwydir stated that ten "no idling" signs were donated and that the Commission purchased 5 more. She also stated that The Grove would not allow signs to be posted there. Ms. Loder-Murphy stated that the Post Office is willing to put up signs but must get permission from their landlord. Ms. Blair asked how the "no idling" campaign would impact the school buses. Chairwoman Gwydir explained that the school doesn't really use buses, only to take the kids to sporting events. She explained this is mostly aimed at residents and explained that police department vehicles and utility trucks are exempt from the requirement.

Sustainable NJ

Chairwoman Gwydir stated that Sue Binns is working on the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) and Borough Engineer, Mr. Cranmer, is working on the maps. She stated that the forestry study is almost complete and when submitted is worth 50 points. She continued stating that the recycling portion is done and that all that was needed was the tonnage report and some photos. Chairwoman Gwydir stated she is working with Tom Seaman on the energy audit. She said that by October she hoped to submit everything to the Sustainable NJ program.

Community Garden

Mr. Thomas stated that a representative from the Tinton Falls' community garden came to the Borough and explained everything but did not know the cost of the water to the Borough. He stated that the Borough needs to find out that information and explained that the same gentleman built both the Tinton Falls' and Oceanport's fence. Mr. Thomas stated that with the help of the Garden Club a location should be chosen and possibly even prepared over the winter. Cost was discussed and Mr. Thomas stated that most community gardens charge between \$10 and \$20. Ms. DerAsadourian stated that she would help create a survey to see the interest in the Borough for a community garden.

Environmental Commission 2011

Ms. DerAsadourian explained that she had spoken to Councilman DeSalvo and that an electronic recycling trailer is being put in the Department of Public Work's (DPW) yard. Secretary Brookes explained that a procedure for the trailer is being developed. Ms. Loder-Murphy suggested that the Environmental Fair could possibly focus on health and wellness. Chairwomen Gwydir stated that they could move the fair anywhere now

but wants to keep the focus on Earth day but with a health and wellness component could be added. She expresses concern that the attendance was down and suggested pairing the fair with something else to draw more people in. Ms. Blair said that the Commission might want to work with either Shade Tree or the Homesteaders to make a bigger event.

Ms. DerAsadourian suggested that the Commission do a walk to school incentive for the students of Shrewsbury Borough School. She stated she had spoken with the superintendent and he was very excited to participate. She continued stating that something needs to be drafted to say if you walk to school, door to door, that after a certain number of trips the students would receive a homework pass. Ms. DerAsadourian said that she would like to have this in place before the weather turns stating that no matter where you live in Shrewsbury you can walk to school. Ms. Blair recommended allowing the students to do either bike or walk to school.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Blair, seconded by Mr. Thomas, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Attest: _____
Bonnie Brookes, Commission Secretary