Environmental Commission Meeting of 05/8/2019 Minutes:

Joan Osborne called the meeting to order at 7:03PM and read the opening statement.

Members Present: Osborne, Huszar, Senders, Poland, Garrick
Alternates Present: Barron, Fuschetto
Guests: Deputy Mayor Evelyn O’Donnell
Brian Fitzpatrick – New Jersey Natural Gas
Nancy Skidmore, Esq. – Connell Foley
Brian Decina, P.E. – French & Parello

Motion to Approve Minutes of 4/10/18 meeting made by Barron, 2nd by Huszar – previous minutes pass by unanimous vote.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Skidmore, and Mr. Decina discussed a NJNG application for construction of a new training facility. A Phase I was conducted and a Phase II will be conducted due to historic agricultural usage of the property. Both reports will be provided to the Environmental Commission when complete. NJNG will also be using pervious pavement across the property. All questions were answered to the satisfaction of the Commission.

Committee Reports:
Plastic Pollution: Conference call was had (Huszar, Garrick, Osborne, and Patricia Fuschetto) regarding drafting an ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags and straws in the Township. The goal is to have a draft by the next Commission meeting for review. As Styrofoam ordinance is already in effect (as of 1991), the committee is also looking to revise subsequent to finalizing the plastic bag/straw ordinance. Chairwoman Osborne passed literature around from Clean Ocean Action and Clean Water Action regarding plastic reduction and using reusables.
Natural Resources Working Group: Conference Call was had on April 24, 2019 (Barron, Huszar, Osborne, Brian Tannenhaus, and Mary Ann Cernak) discussing all environmentally-related groups. A reminder that the Farmers Market will officially begin the 1st Sunday in June at the Investors Bank on Route 9, adjacent to Quick Chek.
OLD BUSINESS:
Monmouth Commerce Center: Garrick is pursuing that a potentially endangered species of frog may be present on the property. The application will be heard by the Planning Board on 5/9/19.
Proposed Waste Transfer Station: Chairwoman Osborne received a call from a citizen group in Tinton Falls that would like to discuss the proposed waste transfer station with the Howell Environmental Commission.

Request for Identification of Properties to Preserve: On-going.
Middle School South 8th Grade G&T Science Class: Several members of the Environmental Commission (Barron, Huszar, Osborne, Senders) as well as members of other Township committees hosted a breakfast for Mrs. Gianelos’ 8th grade G&T class. Mayor Berger and Deputy Mayor O’Donnell were also present. The Township representatives had individual roundtable discussions with groups of students regarding environmental concerns/issues they see in Howell and what can be done to prevent/remediate those issues.

NEW BUSINESS:
Shade Tree Grant Opportunity: Looking for property for a grant for reforestation. May be pushed to next year due to time constraints.
Environmental Resources Inventory: The Township did not receive the $10k grant from Sustainable Jersey for an updated ERI. Deputy Mayor O’Donnell has stated that she is approach Township Manager and Shade Tree Commission to see if they can fund the entire update.
Open Space Acquisition Opportunities: On-going.
Master Plan Sub-Committee Report: There was a Master Plan Sub-Committee meeting on April 25th. No topic was given to pursue for the next update. There may be some rezoning along Route 9 in the Freewood Acres section of Howell.

Adjourned for plat review at 8:20 pm.
Back on the record at 9:20 pm, at which time plat reviews were read into the record.
Meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.