

Pennington Borough Environmental Commission
Minutes for October 16, 2023 at 7:30 pm
Zoom Virtual

Attendees: Joann Held (Acting Chair), Michael Abrahamson, Nancy Fishman, Kieran John, Yasmine Zein, John Valenza (Borough Council Liaison)
Unable to attend: Brian Friedlich, Jim Fuger, Andy Jackson, Dan Rubenstein

1. Public comment: No public present
2. Review of past minutes- September 2023
Motion to approve by Nancy Fishman. Seconded by Kieran John. Approved.
3. Administrative Items
 - a) Upcoming Events
Oct 26: Program on the Green Amendment at the Titusville Unitarian Church
Nov 4: Central Jersey ANJEC Member gathering in Somerville
 - b) Report from ANJEC Congress
Joann Held attended the ANJEC Congress on Oct 13. She summarized some of the primary messages from the Congress, including upcoming expiration of the Corporate Business Tax surcharge which has been used to fund open space, farmland and historic preservation, and Ordinances required under the new Stormwater Management program.
4. Borough Council Report (John Valenza)
Nothing to report
5. Planning/Zoning Board Report
There was no meeting last month.
6. Open Space Report (Nancy Fishman)
 - a) The Open Space Commission is reworking their Vision Statement for the Master Plan.
 - b) They have reviewed the possible lots available for Open Space in Pennington Borough and beyond its borders. If the Borough were to purchase land outside its borders in order to plant trees, would those trees be eligible to be counted as carbon offsets?

7. Carbon Neutral Committee (Joann Held & John Valenza)

Brian Friedlich submitted a report regarding the committee work.

- a) The Committee met on Oct. 9 and reviewed a draft memorandum summarizing the Borough's 2022 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (aka Carbon Footprint). The memo was discussed by PEC members and some clarifications were suggested.
- b) The Committee has begun work on a Carbon Neutral Plan which will consider different options and alternatives to reduce the Borough's Carbon Footprint.
- c) Work will begin on the 2023 Carbon Footprint calculation as soon as data from the 4th quarter are received from the Borough.
- d) PEC suggests that we use the Quarterly Borough Newsletter as one means of educating our residents on ways to reduce their residential or commercial Carbon Footprint.
- e) John recommended that we recruit more members for this committee.

8. Green Team and Sustainable Jersey Update (Joann Held)

- a) Community Solar Outreach: The Green Team is planning a public outreach campaign in early 2024 to advertise the availability of Community Solar.
- b) The Green Team will host a metal recycling event on Feb 10, 2024 at Hopewell Township Public Works building.
- c) Princeton has initiated an Organic Waste collection pilot project. The Green Team will be monitoring their progress, looking for ways to implement something locally.

9. PFAS (Joann Held)

PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others. PFAS can be present in our water, soil, air, and food as well as in materials found in our homes or workplaces. The NJDEP has adopted drinking water standards, known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for three PFAS: Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), and perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA). USEPA is expected to adopt standards soon.

10. Old Business: None

11. New Business

The Borough is implementing a Youth Protection plan, which will require every volunteer to view a video on protecting children. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

12. Future Issues

- a) Site Plan Review Training
- b) ERI Training
- c) Educational projects on recycling
- d) MS4 Permit: training, public outreach, funding
- e) Inviting teens to join the PEC (as Junior Members)
- f) Sustainable Jersey Certification
- g) Light Pollution restrictions

13. Next Meeting – November 20,2023 at 7:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm