

WWT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

May 9, 2024

The May 2024 meeting of the WWT Environmental Commission was held on Thursday, May 9, 2024 via Zoom with Ephraim Buhks calling the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, a notice of this meeting's date, time, place and agenda was mailed to the news media, posted on the Township bulletin board, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Members: E. Buhks; E. Gordon; A. Baig; L. Katz
Liaison: F. Guzik Advisor: D. Parris Council Liaison: Andrea Mandel

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October, 2023 L. Katz motioned; I. Singh seconded;
Minutes were approved as presented with one grammatical correction noted.

CONTINUING BUSINESS: Project Review/Update

Community Park Gardens and Meadow – S. Parratt was unable to attend the meeting. An update will be provided at a future meeting.

Community Solar Update – L. Katz shared the WW Parking Authority is continuing to work with the transit village project to design and install a walkway in the parking lot leading from the housing development to the train station. The WW Parking Authority will be requesting bids and proposals for the project in the near future. As the project progresses, he will provide further updates.

Student/Scout Projects – H. Shankar was unable to attend the meeting. An update will be provided at a future meeting.

Street Lighting Conditions and Standards Review – E. Gordon gathered information from local municipalities and Mercer County on lighting regulations, restrictions, and mechanical guidelines. He will distribute a summary document to the EC members. This summary document could be used as a reference when concerns or future projects are brought to the attention of the commission. The information can also be placed on the township website to guide and educate community members.

Arbor Day 2024 – Several EC members attended the Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum. There was discussion on the demonstrations, projects and information that were presented. The event was regarded as a success and all in attendance look forward to it continuing in the future.

Township Council Update – A. Mandel reported that the new Shade Tree Ordinance was fully approved and adopted as presented. The mayor will be providing his annual State of the Township address at the May 13th meeting. There are public hearings scheduled for the May 13th meeting with the Township CFO presenting an ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limit and establish a cap bank as well as the 2024 budget presentation, hearing, and adoption. Any interested EC members are welcome to attend as well as general members of the public and community.

Planning Board – A. Baig gave a review of the Master Plan work session which took place at the April 17th PB meeting. The work session consisted of a PowerPoint presentation for the draft Berrien City Planning & Zoning Study as an introduction and allowed the PB to receive feedback from residents. The presentation of the Study included maps of the area, background, description, zoning, and impact. Several members of the public were in attendance and provided comments which will be taken into consideration and incorporated into the study. There will be additional opportunities for further comments at future PB meetings. A. Baig requested L. Katz to share additional details with him on the transit village walkway project so he may present it to the PB. L. Katz will keep him apprised as it progresses.

NEW BUSINESS:

Draft Flood Control Ordinances – E. Buhks stated that he asked F. Guzik to gather information regarding any future Flood Control ordinances that were being discussed or worked on that could impact the local community. F. Guzik provided an overview presentation of the NJDEP Inland Flood Protection Rule that was adopted in July 2023. The rule required municipalities statewide to update their individual Stormwater Control ordinances within one year of the rule's adoption. The main changes focused largely on increased precipitation due to climate change once recent studies were taken into consideration and data was updated to reflect future projections. Developers and future projects will need to utilize this data to ensure their projects are well-suited to manage current levels and future predictions. Additional discussion took place regarding the data levels and how they could impact development within the local community. F. Guzik stated a draft of the new updated Stormwater Ordinance will be presented to the township council for review. Once TC comments or requested revisions are received, the updated ordinance will be presented to the EC for feedback and then forwarded to the township council for final approval prior to the July deadline. E. Buhks thanked F. Guzik for the information and presentation.

Science News Discussion – E. Buhks shared information he had gathered recently on science and environmental topics within the news and how they pertain to the local community. He will continue to share these articles and topics with EC members as applicable.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Tomaro, Administrative Secretary
WWT Environmental Commission