



**TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, February 9, 2023
7:00 pm**

Live in the Council Chambers @ the Municipal Building

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that action will be taken on the following items at the Sparta Environmental Commission meeting Thursday, February 9, 2023.

TIME: The meeting is called to order at 7:06 pm by Chair Kim Noel

STATEMENT: Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the public and the press on January 6, 2023, by delivering to the Press and posting on the Township website a copy of the notice.

1. Roll Call was taken-present: Kim Noel (Chair)
Neil Sauerwein (Vice Chair)
Kristine Rogers (Alternate)
Ted Gall
Michele Landtau (Alternate Secretary)
Debbie Card (Secretary)
Dean Blumetti (Town Council Liaison)
Absent: Christine Dunbar (Planning Board Liaison)
Dan Chiariello (Town Council Liaison Alternate)
Rich Tomko
Robert Poles
2. Salute to the Flag led by Kim Noel (Chair)
3. Approval of Minutes: 5-26-22 Minutes – Changes requested by Dean Blumetti
Amended minutes accepted: Dean Blumetti 1st, Neil Sauerwein 2nd

1-12-23 Meeting Minutes reviewed and tabled until next meeting
Neil Sauerwein 1st, Dean Blumetti 2nd
4. Correspondence: None
5. Applications: None
6. Public Comment: None
7. Reports: Dean Blumetti (Town Council Liaison)
 - Sustainable NJ Grant letter from Town Council to allow for the grant submission was approved.
 - At the last Town Council meeting a speaker presented a request to make Franklinite the NJ State mineral.



- The budget was discussed including the Environmental Commission request for funds for the Earth Day Fair planned for April 22, 2023.
- Deer Hunting Resolution was discussed and ultimately rescinded for additional review.
- Discussed ability to live stream the township meetings. Debbie Card (Secretary) read memo from Michael Dempsey IT in reference to the updates on AV system to accommodate live streaming.

No report from Planning Board due to Christine Dunbar's absence.

8. Unfinished Business: Kim Noel (Chair)

- ANJEC follow-up for speaker/time/date to present Great Waters resolution proposal
- Sustainable NJ Grant applied for. April will be determination if grant is accepted and amount.
- Earth Day Plan updates regarding exhibitors:
 - Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority ("SCMUA") contacted and expected.
 - Avian Wildlife contacted and expected.
 - Native Plants Society of NJ contacted and expected.
 - Sparta Parks and Recreation invited and planning on attending.
 - Live Music will be provided by Steve Coombs.
 - Turtle Lady has retired and no longer does speaking engagements.
 - Committee has not heard back from: Bee Keepers Association, Lake Mohawk Preservation, Food Bank or Blue Diamond at this time.
 - Childrens booths are also being organized including a Kiddie Corner, exhibits from the Sparta Middle School Ecology Group.
 - Volunteers will be from the Sparta High School and Pope John High School.
 - Earth Day set up will be between 8am to 10:30 am. Need volunteers for setup, different kiddie exhibits and clean up



- Food options reviewed. At this time do not have any food vendors committed. Should we try for some vegan food?
- VFW called regarding the ability to use the parking lot for overflow and it was approved.
- Road Salt/Salt Shed update/proposal/letter drafted and reviewed by Commission.
- Rail Trail Expansion Plan – reopening discussion from previous meeting, Iron Horse Trail – 5 miles in Sparta, interest in giving letter of support, 2 miles of trails in Sparta owned by SCMUA and may pose insurance/liability issues, discussion of locations followed, review of site maps. Site visit suggested. Must determine if invasive species would be introduced to trail and see if that would present a problem.
- Draft a letter of support for rails to trails at for next meeting.

Kristine Rogers (Alternate)

- Requested changes to salt letter before submission. Will provide applicable data/info for letter.

Motion to approve amended letter to council proposed and Neil Sauerwein 1st. All in favor. No one abstained.

Kristine Rogers (Alternate) –

- Should we consider onsite battery recycling? Kristine will send flyer with info. Would town consider sponsoring a box at the town hall.

Debbie Card (Secretary) mentioned that battery recycling – previous Manager did not want the collection inside building due to fire risk. Jim Zepp DPW referred to SCMUA collection site on RTE 94. Not enough batteries to warrant a separate collection site.

9. New Business:

Kim Noel (Chair) New Grant ANJEC reference to Warehouse studies– This will be referred to grant writer to investigate further.

10. Adjournment:

Motion To adjourn: Neil Sauerwein (Vice Chair) 1st; Ted Gall 2nd motion