

Alloway Township Environmental Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2024

**Attendees:** Debbie Dilks, Renee Waters, Autumn Angelus, Committeeman Angelus, Frank Ponti, Craig Kane

**Excused:** Chris Gilbert

**Guests:** Larry Massey, Rob Ferber

Meeting Called To Order at: 7:07pm

February minutes (no January minutes, due to lack of quorum) approved, as read.

**Announcements/ Correspondence:**

- Introduction of guests in the audience.
- Rob Ferber, Regional Manager of the NJCF Delaware Watershed, spoke regarding the Boy Scout camp land, see below in New business.

**Discussion-**

*Old business:*

- ANJEC dues approved, will be sent ASAP (deputy clerk awaiting answers to some questions).

*New business:*

- Jumped straight into the presentation by Rob Ferber (NJCF).
  - He is the Southern NJ representative from NJCF. One thing that NJCF coordinates is farmland preservation, sometimes in conjunction with NRCS. Rob facilitates these preservation projects. He also oversees the preservation of land through Green Acres funding. Green Acres pays 50% of a project, so part of what NJCF does is find matching funds for these preservation projects. There is focus on acquiring land that is contiguous, parcels that are adjacent, to current open space. Preserving land has a high stewardship cost (hard to manage so much land, especially if they're non-contiguous). The NJCF is still willing to assist with preservation, but they need to find organizations that can hold the land (easement) once it's acquired. He has been in contact with the Boy Scouts regarding their property in Alloway Twp. The Scout land was used as collateral, they had a certain timeline in which to sell the land, if not the national organization may step in and take charge to sell the property. The ideal situation would be similar to Camp Edge where the Boy Scouts hoped that the land owner would lease the land back to them after the sale.
  - Discussion ensued regarding the logistics of acquisition of land through non-profit organizations, and who would be responsible for upkeep. The current group selling the camp is not interested in developing the land, but once the national Boy Scout managers come in, the goal will likely be liquidation to the highest bidder regardless of the outcome on the other side. Parts of the property are zoned A, 1 acre lots. There are a few developers interested in the property.
  - Working together with the Township Committee and Planning board would be the only way to move forward with any potential preservation by the ATEC. The liabilities would likely be

due to the dam and the land upkeep. Some portions of the properties have been bought by Larry and will therefore be safe from development.

- Poster/ Essay Contest - The ATS science teacher is leaving, our project may be a good project for the substitute after she leaves. Debbie will attempt to reach out again to the teacher. The topic will be "Weigh the Pros and Cons of Wind Energy in Southern New Jersey". Autumn will create the topic handout in the usual format for Debbie to distribute to the teacher/ substitute. Essays posters due May 1st.
- Planning Board - No meeting this month.

Next meeting: April 8, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.