



## OAKLAND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING

**Chair:**  
Alison Fleeson  
**Vice Chair:**  
Alex Myers  
**Commissioners:**  
Lee Haymon  
Nancy Krause  
Erich Kamm  
Carol Peterson  
Elisabeth Ochoa  
Vacancy  
Vacancy  
**Council Liaison:**  
Pasquale Pignatelli  
**Secretary**  
Michael Carelli

1. **Meeting called to order** at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Meeting Announcement:** This meeting is being held in accordance with the open public meetings law, duly announced, advertised, and posted in the municipal building.
3. **Roll Call:** Chair Alison Fleeson, Vice Chair Alex Myers, Carol Peterson, Lee Haymon, Erich Kamm, and Secretary Michael Carelli present. Councilman Pat Pignatelli, Nancy Krause, and Elisabeth Ochoa absent upon roll call. Motion by Lee Haymon and Seconded by Alison Fleeson to excuse Nancy Krause. All in favor.
4. **Open to the Public:** Motion made by Lee Haymon to open to the public and seconded by Carol Peterson. All in favor. Jerri Angermueller present. Motion to close made by Lee Haymon and Seconded by Carol Peterson. All in favor.
5. **Committee Updates:**
  - **Town Council (Councilman Pignatelli):**
    - Councilman Pignatelli absent as tonight is the regularly scheduled Board of Health Meeting.
  - **Open Space (Erich Kamm):**
    - No update.
  - **Pinnacle/Bi-County:**
    - No update.
6. **Old Business:**
  - **Great Oak Park Paving Letter:**
    - Chair Alison Fleeson distributed the draft letter to the Commission. Comments were made by Nancy Krause and Erich Kamm on the draft letter.
    - Lee Haymon stated that the Borough of Oakland decided on the parking and paving option for Great Oak Park and it seemed like it was the Park Committee that decided, but in fact, it was the Borough, and the Park Committee accepted the decision of pavement for the driveway. Chair Alison Fleeson stated she would make the changes reflecting Lee Haymon's comments and suggestions. Lee Haymon will provide the verbiage. Mr. Haymon suggested making the letter a little shorter and more to the point. All Commissioners agreed and Alison Fleeson will make the changes. Erich Kamm added that the clear cutting of the milkweed was a past issue in 2018. Carol Peterson added that the Borough is paving in the area of the milkweed. Alison Fleeson added that there seems to be a confusion among the Governing Body on who the Environmental Commission is and what we do. Lee Haymon suggested presenting before the Governing Body and reeducate them on who the Environmental Commission is.
    - Erich Kamm asked if the Great Oak Park Committee did any studies on water flow and velocity and if there was a discussion among the Great Oak Park Committee. He added that this paving and creating impervious surfaces near the river is going in the opposite direction of what the Borough should be doing. Alison Fleeson added that she spoke to the Borough Administrator and the opinion of the Borough is that they are restoring the pavement and they do not feel they are making much of a change. Michael Carelli added that the driveway paving is part of the 2020 Road Program and is on schedule to be paved within the next few weeks. Chair Alison Fleeson asked to vote on the letter with the

suggested corrections. Motion made by Carol Peterson to release the letter with the suggested corrections and Seconded by Erich Kamm. All in favor. Lee Haymon added that there might be other opportunities to remove pavement in other locations in Great Oak Park and a study should be done.

## **7. New Business:**

- **Chicken Ordinance:**

- Carol Peterson added that there is a chicken ordinance being discussed by the Oakland Governing Body right now.
- The Board of Health is discussing the ordinance at tonight's meeting.
- Carol Peterson asked the Health Department on data of chicken violations in the last 5 years, especially on composting. Carol Peterson added that the ability to compost chicken waste is off the table on the proposed ordinance. Lee Haymon asked if the ordinance was based off of other town's ordinances. Lee Haymon suggested contacting other towns that have been down this path before. Carol Peterson added that Franklin Lakes has a great chicken ordinance that allows for 12 chickens, and a permit for an additional 12 chickens. Chair Alison Fleeson added that in doing research, the amount of chickens allowed was broad amongst New Jersey municipalities. Some town's factor in acreage in regards to the number of chickens. The Oakland proposed ordinance features a notification requirement to people within a certain distance of the home/chicken. The Environmental Commission has been sending sample ordinances to the Governing Body. Lee Haymon asked if a chicken specialist can speak at a future Council Meeting. Carol Peterson added that she has a person but needs more information. Lee Haymon added that the Planning Board will need to hear the ordinance and he will let the Commission know when it comes to the Planning Board. Erich Kamm asked if the chicken ordinance is within the Environmental Commission's expertise and how the Commission should move forward. Chair Alison Fleeson added that she contacted the Mayor, Borough Administrator, and Councilman Pignatelli with the concerns amongst some residents and will have a letter for the Commission to vote on at the next meeting. Erich Kamm asked if there is further documentation, including the draft ordinance. The draft is still being worked on by the Borough.

- **Sewer Treatment Plants:**

- Carol Peterson stated that the Borough is embarking on decommissioning the 3 sewer treatment plants as a required step in sewer's coming to the Borough of Oakland. The project total is approximately \$6 million for 235 homes. The project requires NJDEP approval and the sewage will be pumped out to Waldwick which is outside the watershed. Alison Fleeson added that various residents had sewage backups in their homes. Carol Peterson added that the Borough has over \$400,000 in fines and asked why the Borough received them and how they are being paid for. Alison Fleeson added that she saw a timeline on the fine payments. Carol Peterson asked if the fines are taxpayer money or bonded. Chair Alison Fleeson wanted the entire Environmental Commission aware of the situation.

- **Battery Recycling Program:**

- Carol Peterson stated that the battery recycling program is very successful and Michael Carelli added that the first bucket was filled and sent back, and another bucket was put out.

- **Glen Grey Road/Patriots Way Bridge Replacement:**

- Carol Peterson brought up the eminent domain on Glen Grey Road for the Patriots Way Bridge replacement and the status of the Borough's bridges.

**8. Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Update:**

- **Current Projects (Lee Haymon):**

- First Planning Board Meeting was held. The only item on the agenda was for a WebMD in the old 'Luca's' facility on West Oakland Avenue. There are minor site modifications. There is nothing to hear in the next month. No update on Pinnacle or McCoy farms at this time.

- **Review Plans (None Received):**

- No plans received.

**9. Budget Status:**

- No Update.

**10. Close Meeting:** Motion to Close by Erich Kamm and Seconded by Alex Myers. All in Favor.

**11. Meeting Adjourned at 8:09 p.m.**

**Next Meeting Tuesday October 6, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom Video Conferencing**

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Carelli  
Secretary