

# Oakland Environmental Commission

**June 4, 2019**

1. **Meeting called to order** at 7:35 PM by Chair David Blanke. Alex Myers, Carol Peterson, Ali Fleeson, Nancy Krause and Erich Kamm were present. Lee Haymon and Peter Kikot were excused. Councilmen Pat Pignatelli, John Biale and Eric Kulmala attended.
2. **Meeting Announcement:** This meeting is being held in accordance with the open public meeting law, duly announced, advertised, and posted in the Municipal Building.
3. **Open to the Public** – No public attended or spoke at the meeting.
4. **Town Council Report** – Councilmen John Biale and Eric Kulmala spoke as members of the Borough Water/Sewer subcommittee. As an introduction to the EC, the councilmen reported that their committee had worked towards Oakland joining the Municipal Pipeline group when the Pilgrim Pipeline Company had made an effort to plan a Pipeline through Borough property as part of an Albany to Newark Bay crude oil transport system. The Municipal Group had been concerned about potential environmental impacts on our water system. The plan is now under NYS review.

The councilmen had been invited to especially speak about the annual water quality report and answer questions presented to them via email by David Blanke:

Councilman Biale stated that the NJDEP has proposed a standard limit 14ppt PFOA and 13ppt PFOS. Public comment was due to NJDEP by 5/31/2019, the standard is expected to be established later this year. There is a limited amount of testing agencies that perform the testing. Carol Peterson asked if Oakland is testing levels of PFOA/PFOS to establish what levels we are at this time. The Councilmen stated that these items are not being monitored, as there are no regulatory standards as of yet that can be used to report the standings of the results. This is also true of 1-4 dioxane testing, no reporting is taking place until standards are established. Quarterly testing is required by the NJDEP for all standardized water testing results, but reporting is not required for 1-4 dioxane and PFOA/PFOS at this time. Councilman Kulmala stated that they will bring it back to the water committee to find out if any testing is taking place that is not being reported. If there is testing being conducted at this time, the levels would be shared with the EC. Well 5 is only used as backup, but is in the process of being decommissioned. Oakland does not intend to do any remediation at the Well 5 location. Councilman Biale stated that contamination at the Well 5 location is due to sodium-in-water test results due to the salt runoff from the winter salting of Route 287. Councilman Biale has stated that the infiltration of our water system has risen, and the township is working on the planning for replacing major sections of water lines throughout the town under a future Capital Project and the Town Engineer is mapping and prioritizing all the water lines throughout town. The infiltration is also affecting our storm-water lines. Future work on the storm-water lines is in the process of being planned. The possibility of beet juice-brine usage for highway de-icing was discussed. The town received information from the director of county roads, who stated that it works really well and reduces rock salt use, but requires more beet juice. The county currently use it on all county roads, and the town would be looking into it further with the information provided. Councilman Biale stated that the ramifications of wellhead protection are far reaching and can affect new development plans.

Well-head protection was recently studied for two years by Boswell for Mahwah, which created a protection system. Boswell will be copying their system and bringing it to Oakland. In regards to a question the EC had about water quality at the schools, Councilman Kulmala stated that the Board of Education would need to be contacted regarding the concerns. Councilman Kulmala answered a question regarding chemicals used by DPW, stating that MSDS sheets would be given to the EC.

5. **Approval of Agenda** – David returned to agenda after the Councilmen spoke.

6. **Meeting minutes review** - April and May 2019 minutes were approved.

## 7. Committee updates

- a.) Green Team – Carol Peterson reported that over 100 butterfly milkweed plants were donated by a member of the public and installed in the shared garden of the EC & SOGT. 300 - 400 milkweed plants have been identified in the Great Lawn. The GOP Committee Chair has asked the Green Team to help with relocation out of the Great lawn. The Green Team has advised the GOP chair that invasive species are returning to the Great Lawn and may need further remediation action. The Green Team has been told that no chemicals are being used in Great Oak Park.-Don Torino of the NJ Audubon Society is doing a program on butterfly gardens at the Library June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- b.) Open-space – Councilman Pignatelli stated the Borough has found that the Bi-County property are not willing sellers to the town. Pat Pignatelli will check with Borough Attorney. Further discussion could be made in sub-committee. David Blanke and Erich Kamm will set up an appointment with the Mayor to discuss possibility of purchases of the Bi-County property as well as Sandy Beach. Land Conservancy works on open-space purchases.
- c.) Great Oak Park – Carol Peterson noted Ribbons are being used on 80 trees to mark proposed borders of area. David Blanke spoke with the GOP Chair and reported that the Dog Park Committee put the ribbons on the trees as part of their planning work. Nancy Krause reported that the Dog Park Chair attended the Shade Tree Commission meeting and got recommendations for trees to be planted in the new park. The new trees will be funded by the Shade Tree Commission's fund. The Dog Park Committee has been reminded of town permit regulations for tree removal. Peter Kikot, a member of the shade tree committee, is verifying which trees will need a permit for removal, and it was determined that there will be no water source on site. The EC commissioners are to give the chair questions for the liaison to bring to the next GOP meeting.

## 8. Unfinished Business

- a.) 2019-20 plans and goals – David Blanke presented a list of suggested goals. The plan was discussed, amended and accepted. See attached list.
- b.) Town Carnival – Composter is needed from the DPW for display at the Environmental Commission booth and as a prize in the name drawing being held for people who sign up at the booth. Ali Fleeson stated that the DPW has submitted to the NJDEP a statement in the MS4 that the town will be providing an educational pamphlet at the carnival. In order to be compliant with the DPW's yearly report, the EC needs the pamphlet for the carnival. Nancy Krause will provide. Commissioners can sign up for time slots during the Carnival hours.

## **9. New Business**

- a.) Planning Board coordination – Not Discussed
- b.) Plastic bag/Styrofoam ban – Carol Peterson can have SOGT help with research and education. David Blanke and Carol Peterson agreed the OEC would lead the topic.

## **10. Planning Board/Board of Adjustments Update**

- a.) Current projects – 53 Spruce St. Plans for commercial building with parking lot adjacent to Sandy Beach property is before the Board of Adjustments.
- b.) Review Plans – plans were reviewed at end of meeting and returned to the Planning Board/Board of Adjustment secretary with comments when comments were made.

**11. Budget Status** – The Borough Budget has been approved. The Environmental Commission has \$1000 to spend on miscellaneous activities, including training, to be pre-approved by the Borough Administrator.

**12 Close meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM. The next meeting is Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 PM. Minutes submitted by Secretary Jerri Angermueller

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*Goals for years of 2019 – 2020*

### **EC Membership**

Establish goals for 2019 – 2020.  
Ensure regular dialogue on open-space issues/ opportunities  
Create mission statement  
Establish by-laws  
Expand membership to incorporate associate members  
Plan Year-end outing  
Conduct year-end self-assessment

### **Relationship with Municipal Government**

Update ERI, promote greater use of Borough planning  
Realign with Planning Board to ensure optimal EC involvement, including site plan checklist  
Conduct research on plastic bag ban in other towns and take appropriate action for Oakland  
Check when next Master Plan update is being done, weigh in on environmental impacts, review open space list.

### **Financial Resources**

Regular review of grants available to EC and apply where necessary.  
Review budget regularly; take a more proactive approach to next year's budget

### **Community Outreach/Visibility**

Develop and administer formal communication plan for community awareness  
Bring in at least 2 outside experts or members of Borough Council to EC meetings each year  
Create and review calendar of key events.