Flemington Borough Environmental Commission
7pm Monday, April 7th, 2025
38 Park Ave, Flemington, NJ
Regular Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm.

a. OPMA Statement
Chairwoman Swingle read the OPMA statement.

b. Roll Call

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Milissa Swingle	Chair	X	
Chris Runion	Vice-Chair	X	
Trent Levitt	Secretary, Council Liaison	X	
Ellen Indoe	Member	X	
John Kearny	Member		X
Freddy Mejia	Member, Alt #1	X	
Ken Palminteri	Member, Alt #2	X	

II. Reports

a. Chairperson
No report

b. Council Liaison
$3,500 budget for the year, budget to be introduced on Thursday

c. Planning Board Liaison
Chairwoman Swingle reported there was one application before the board for Environmental Commission's review

d. Shade Tree Liaison
Councilman Levitt reported the Shade Tree Commission had about 3 adopt-a-tree applications in so far this year

e. Committee Reports
No reports

III. Public Comment

There were no members of the public.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the 2024-11-18 minutes was made by Councilman Levitt, seconded by Chairwoman Swingle

Name	Position	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Milissa Swingle	Chair	X			
Chris Runion	Vice-Chair	X			
Trent Levitt	Secretary, Council Liaison	X			
Ellen Indoe	Member	X			
John Kearny	Member			X	
Freddy Mejia	Member, Alt #1	X			
Ken Palminteri	Member, Alt #2	X			

Motion to approve the 2025-02-03 minutes was made by Councilman Levitt, seconded by Chairwoman Swingle

Name	Position	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Milissa Swingle	Chair	X			
Chris Runion	Vice-Chair	X			
Trent Levitt	Secretary, Council Liaison	X			
Ellen Indoe	Member	X			
John Kearny	Member			X	
Freddy Mejia	Member, Alt #1	X			
Ken Palminteri	Member, Alt #2	X			

V. Site Plan Reviews

Spark Car Wash LLC

Commissioner Mejia was concerned about the level of water recycling the site was going to use. Commissioner Indoe was concerned about the

contaminants within the water, specifically PFAS used by the car washing industry.

Commissioner Mejia noted the space was very large. Commissioner Indoe was concerned about the noise for the adjacent residential property.

Councilman Levitt noted the Shade Tree Commission was requesting a payment in lieu of planting the required amount of trees.

Chairwoman Swingle read a note from a Borough professional citing national standards and other car washes in the area recycling up to 80% of their water. This applicant proposed only 40% water recycling.

Councilman Levitt noted the lights were too bright and should be brought into compliance with the Borough requirements.

VI. General Business

a. Update on Lighting Ordinance

Councilman Levitt updated the Commission on the status of the Lighting ordinance he was working on. He had mostly finished it and would send it out to the Commission for review and then send it to the Planning Board.

b. Wildlife Feeding Ordinance

Chairwoman Swingle described that a number of residents in the area of Walnut Brook Dr (approximately 4-5) had complained to the Mayor of a resident feeding deer and a attracting an unusually large amount.

Commissioners Mejia and Indoe questioned the veracity and size of these claims.

Commissioner Palminteri mentioned his mother enjoys feeding deer and confirmed it can attract a very large amount.

Commissioners Mejia and Indoe wanted to see proof of the large amounts of deer at these properties.

Commissioner Indoe wondered if the amount of deer was actually being increased by the feeding.

The Commission desired more information from the aggrieved citizens before taking further action.

Commissioner Mejia left the meeting at 7:50pm.

c. Standard Heat Pump Statement

Chairwoman Swingle described certain Planning Board applicants' concerns with the statement opposing natural gas contained within the Commission's site plan reviews.

Councilman Levitt explained that the statement was merely a recommendation. He further explained the history of natural gas bans in Berkely, California and the unlikelihood that Flemington Borough could ban the use of natural gas in new development.

d. 2024 Report to Council

Chairwoman Swingle explained the Commission is supposed to send an annual report to council containing operations and expenditures.

Councilman Levitt discussed the Environmental Commission budget and that it had been used in 2023 and 2024 despite the Commission not approving any expenses. Councilman Levitt noted that a bill for the Planning Board had been charged to the Environmental Commission account.

Vice-Chair Runion did not recall approving any fund expenditures in the past two years.

VII. Chair Items

There were no chair items.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:11pm

Minutes approved 2025-05-05