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Florence, New Jersey 08518
February 5, 2026

The regular meeting of the Florence Township Environmental Commission was held on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. followed by a salute to the flag. The following statement was read: "I would like to announce that this meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been provided to the official newspapers and posted in the main hall of the Municipal Complex".

Upon roll call the following Commissioners were found to be present:

Melanie Mieczkowski Talaya Loftin, Council Representative
David Mudge
Deepa Patel
Paul Ordog

ABSENT: Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Dave Yansick

EXCUSED: Tina Lloyd, Planning Board Rep

MINUTES

A Motion was made by Ms. Mieczkowski, seconded by Mr. Ordog to accept the minutes from January 15, 2026 with a correction to the spelling of Ms. Mieczkowski's name. Motion unanimously approved by all members present. Ms. Patel abstained.

COORESPONDENCE

A. Notice from PSEG dated February 2, 2026

This is a notice from PSEG that an application for statewide utility blanket flood hazard area individual permit was submitted to the NJDEP. This is an annual blanket permit so they can complete the yearly maintenance that is required to their utilities in the area. This would include gas lines, high tension wires and public road rights-of-way.

A Motion was made by Chairman Mudge, seconded by Ms. Patel to receive and file the correspondence. Motion approved by all members present.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Mieczkowski has an application for a grant from Bowman's Hill Flower Preserve which grants money for towns in the Delaware Valley for funds for plants and flowers for Fall plants. The deadline for submission is Feb 21, 2026. The grant application would need to come from the Township.

A Motion was made by Ms. Mieczkowski, seconded by Council Rep. Loftin to apply for the grant. Motion approved by all members present.

The Commission is planning to coordinate some events for Earth Day with the Boy and Girl Scouts and possibly the Environmental Club from the high school which is April 22. The theme is Our Power, Our Planet.

6.

There are areas near RD Wood field/cricket fields that need to be cleaned up of litter as well as behind the Wawa near Burger King. This might be an area that the high school Environmental Club would want to help with. Mr. Ordog mentioned that the library might want some plants as well. He said he would talk about it at the next library board meeting.

Council Rep Loftin said she would like to coordinate an educational event between the Environmental Commission and a softball game so that the kids are already here to participate. Ms. Patel said that there is a program where people can collect plastic bags, and after a certain amount is collected, a bench will be donated from Trex which is an idea for a challenge for kids to collect. Ms. Mieczkowski said that an idea would be to educate residents on the recycle center in town. There are residents who don't know that it is there and what they will take.

Council Rep Loftin said that when she was doing some maintenance at the community garden, the township dropped off woodchips and there are quite a bit leftover. She would like to compost the leftovers or reuse in some way in another garden.

Chairman Mudge said there is still Japanese knotweed around the community gardens that needs to be removed because it is invasive. Council Rep Loftin said that she will mention this to public works.

Chairman Mudge also suggested that the Commission think about different suggestions when doing plan reviews such as sidewalks. Council Rep Loftin said that Council just discussed this at the last meeting. There is a need for a sidewalk along 130 from the Light Rail station to the whirly bird. However, in the event of snow, it's not easy to get an entity to take responsibility for snow removal & maintenance.

Council Rep Loftin also brought up the possibility of a snow removal ordinance that Council is going to talk about at the next meeting. At this time, the town does not have any requirements for snow removal. Some surrounding towns do have ordinances, such as Bordentown, where residents have 12 days to clean up the snow before getting a fine. But in Burlington City its within a certain number of hours.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was the Motion of Ms. Patel, seconded by Ms. Mieczkowski to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by all members present.

MRK/amh

Michelle Ryan-Krzykalski, Secretary