

**NOVEMBER 9, 2021
MEETING MINUTES**

ATTENDEES

NCC Voting Members: Arnold Schmidt (Chairman, Public Member), Steve Szulecki (Vice Chairman, Public Member, Ecologist), Randy Hauser (Department of Labor), Salvatore Fama (Motor Vehicle Commission), Dr. Iris Udasin (Public Member, Medical Doctor), Norm Dotti (Public Member, Industrialist), Mark Roskein (Public Member), Jack Zybura (Public Member). Joe DiFillippo (Public Member, Local Governing Body), Joseph Lepis (Public member, Civil Engineer) - arrived during New Business

Rutgers and NJDEP Representatives: Eric Zwerling (Director of the Rutgers Noise Technical Assistance Center) and David Triggs (NJDEP Liaison to the NCC), Michelle Feasel (NJDEP Co-Liaison to the Council).

Members of the Public: Sarah Lepis -arrived during New Business

BY-LAWS REVISIONS: There was a discussion on revising the By-Laws as some passages about how to change them were contradictory. There were also previously approved changes in 2019 which were not reflected in the copy provided to the NCC, so it was agreed that those changes would be included as well. Dr. Udasin motioned to approve the amended By-Laws and Mark Roskein seconded. All were in favor except for Norm Dotti, who abstained as he came to the meeting a bit late and missed most of the discussion. The motion therefore carried.

BIENNIAL ELECTIONS:

Chairman Schmidt read the passage from the By-Laws about how the elections should proceed. He opened the floor for any nominations for the position of Chairman. Dr. Udasin nominated current Chairman Schmidt for another term. Each member was then asked to anonymously vote on pieces of paper. David Triggs counted the votes as nine in favor (100%) for re-electing Chairman Schmidt to another term to which he graciously accepted.

Chairman Schmidt opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Randy Hauser nominated current Vice Chairman Steve Szulecki. Each member was then asked to anonymously vote on pieces of paper. David Triggs counted the votes as nine in favor (100%) for re-electing Steve Szulecki to another term which he graciously accepted.

MEETING MINUTES

October 2021: When discussing the example case Steve Szulecki used for his Agricultural Activities guidance document, the place was referred to as “a brewery” leaving out the key point that it was on a farm. The NCC therefore agreed to change the language to “a brewery on a farm.” Salvatore Fama motioned to approve the October minutes as amended and Randy Hauser seconded. All were in favor, except for Joseph DiFillippo, who abstained since he did not attend the meeting.

CHAIR REPORT

- John Lago told Chairman Schmidt that he plans to retire in August of 2022. He occupies the Ex-Officio position for the Department of Community Affairs. He has brought a colleague to a previous meeting and is hopeful that he will replace him once he retires.
- *2022 Meeting Schedule:* The second Tuesday in November – November 8th, 2022, is Election Day. The Council decided that instead of cancelling the meeting they would switch it to the third Tuesday, which is November 15th, 2022. Mark Roskein motioned to approve the amended 2022 schedule and Jack Zybura seconded. All were in favor, so the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

No correspondence to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Gun Range Exemption: Eric Zwerling has communicated for over a year with a farmer from Wantage (Sussex County) who has complained about a nearby gun range that the complainant claims have significantly expanded into a skeet shooting range. Chairman Schmidt read the email correspondence out loud. There was a discussion on whether it falls under the exemption as “continuously occupied” since the range was closed for a few years according to the complainant. Chairman Schmidt said he would try to contact both parties to see if they would like to attend two separate NCC meetings to discuss their side.

Hunting Exemption: Salvatore Fama read the language for his proposed exemption for the “Hunting and taking of wildlife.” He noted that hunting is highly regulated with laws that control what weapons can be used for various game. Chairman Schmidt asked him to prepare a position statement regarding this. Mr. Fama stated that he had already provided this to the NCC. Steve Szulecki agreed that this topic was discussed, and that duck hunting the most concerning. Eric Zwerling added that just because an activity is legal, and regulated, it does not mean that it should be able to bypass other rules. He also stated that the NCC is supposed to consider the health impacts of noise on the citizens of New Jersey. Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Fama to re-forward his previous email to the NCC.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mid-way through Mr. Fama’s hunting exemption discussion NCC member Joesph Lepis and his wife Sarah arrived. Mr. Lepis motioned to open the meeting to the public and Mark Roskein seconded. All were in favor, so the motion carried.

Chairman Schmidt presented Mr. Lepis with a plaque honoring him for his forty years of service to the NCC and the public in the field of noise control. Chairman Schmidt thanked him for his many years of service which included serving as Chairman on the NCC multiple times. After graciously accepting his award Mr. Lepis gave a moving speech in which he thanked his mentors, Eric Zwerling and his wife Sarah. He mentioned how being on the NCC got him involved in reducing aircraft noise, which led him to becoming a member of the Newark Part 150 Roundtable.

Mr. Lepis then issued his heartfelt resignation from the NCC but offered his continued support when needed.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Agricultural exemption:* Everyone was directed to the handout that Steve Szulecki provided at the October meeting. Jack Zybura also read the last NCC-approved “Agricultural” exemption. Mark Roskein stated that a muffler is part of a motor vehicle, so mentioning it in the exemption is overkill. Norm Dotti pointed out that not all farm equipment is considered a motor vehicle. Eric Zwerling added that it should state that all agricultural activity except for amplified speakers, should be considered exempt. However, an auctioneer should be allowed to use them when selling farm-related goods, but not for events such as a concert. Due to a lack of time further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- *N.J.A.C. 7:29:* No update. The Department may have to request an extension beyond the projected publishing date in the February 2022 New Jersey Register.
- *Public Celebration:* Eric Zwerling is still in the process of drafting a revised definition for the NCC’s review.
- *Vehicles entering and exiting:* Due to a lack of time, this topic was tabled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The NCC did not meet in Executive Session.

ADJORNMENT

Salvatore Fama motioned to end the meeting and Jack Zybura seconded. All were in favor, so the motion carried, and the meeting ended.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14th at 9:30 A.M. at the Rutgers Operator Training Center.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Feasel with edits by David Triggs, NJDEP Liaisons to the NCC.