

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2. "ADMINISTRATION", ARTICLE IX. "COMMITTEES; BOARDS; COMMISSIONS", SECTION 2-39, "ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION" OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA**

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Commission was established as an advisory board of the Township to provide advice, information and guidance on the protection, development and use of natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Commission was established in 1978, over forty-five years ago; and

**WHEREAS**, the current work of the Commission calls for modification to its scope and operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sparta Township Council desires to amend Section 2-39, "Environmental Commission" of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Sparta as reflected within this Ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Sparta Township Council, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 2. "Administration", Article IX. "Committees; Boards; Commissions", Section 2-39, "Environmental Commission" of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Sparta is amended as follows:

**Section 1:** Section 2-39.1. "Establishment; Function; Title" subpart "a" is repealed and replaced as follows:

- a. There is hereby established an Environmental Commission for the protection, development and use of natural resources. The Commission shall be known as the Environmental Commission of the Township of Sparta.

**Section 2:** Section 2-39.2. "Membership; Terms", subpart "a" is repealed and replaced as follows, and a new subpart "f" is added as follows"

- a. The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Mayor, one of whom shall also be a member of the Township's Planning Board, and all of whom shall be residents of the Township of Sparta;
- f. The Commission may, in its discretion, appoint a Student Liaison member from one of the high schools serving Sparta Township. The Student Liaison shall be:
  - i. Preferably be a member of the environmental or ecology club at their high school;
  - ii. An uncompensated volunteer;
  - iii. A Sparta resident;
  - iv. A non-voting member;
  - v. 16 years of age or older;
  - vi. Appointed by the Mayor; and
  - vii. Serve for no longer than one (1) year.

The Commission's Chairperson shall determine the process for the student liaison submission and selection, along with such other applicable details.

**Section 3:** Section 2-39.3. "Vacancies; Removal", the following is added to the end of the section:  
"Cause" for removal of any member, may include, but is not limited to, excessive absences (missing more than six (6) meetings in any twelve (12) month period) from regularly scheduled meetings; ongoing lack of participation in Environmental Commission meetings, matters, activities, events, projects and/or subcommittee activities.

**Section 4:** Section 2-39.4. “Organization of Commission; Records; Meetings; Annual Report”, subpart “a” is repealed and replaced as follows:

- a. The Commission shall meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., if needed, and at such other days and times as determined by the Commission and/or times and dates as requested by the Township Council.

**Section 5: Severability.** If any provision of this ordinance or the application of this ordinance to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 6: Repealer.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances or resolutions inconsistent or in opposition to the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed in their entirety.

**Section 7: Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage according to law.

### **NOTICE**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the above ordinance was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Sparta, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, held on September 12, 2023. It will be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting of the Mayor and Council to be held in the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street, in the Township of Sparta, on September 26, 2023 at 7:00 P.M., and during the preceding week copies of the ordinance will be made available at the Clerk’s office in the Municipal Building to members of the general public.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA

ROXANNE LANDY, RMC  
MUNICIPAL CLERK