

Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: 23 December 2008/7:30 PM
Meeting Location: Council / Court Room, Borough Hall
Attendees: Barbara Jones (Chair)
Mellany Alio
Gary Grubb
Yan Troizier
David Zaiser

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by Chair, Barbara Jones.

The Chair announced that the meeting is in conformance with the Open Meetings Act having its date, time and location advertised in the Borough's newspapers of record.

Public in attendance included Clare and Peter Lumkong.

Discussion Summary:

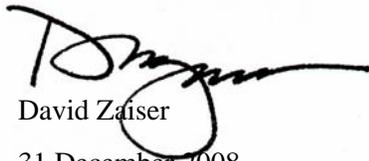
- 1.0 Agenda Approval.** The draft agenda prepared by Ms. Jones was approved unanimously (motion by Alio, second by Zaiser).
- 2.0 Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting of 28 October 2008 (there was no November Meeting) were accepted by the Commission unanimously (motion by Troizier, second by Zaiser).
- 3.0 Old Business**
 - 3.1 Shade Tree Official's (STO) Report:**
 - 3.1.1 Tree Work Funding.** STO reported that the Department of Public Works (DPW) has run out of funds for tree work for 2008. Pending tree work will be accomplished in 2009, anticipating new funds.
 - 3.1.2 Comprehensive Tree Management Plan.** The STO contacted EC members and DPW to identify extent of training related to trees over the past year. Mr. Troizier has reported 8 hours of such training. The STO will report this to the State in satisfaction of the full requirement.
 - 3.1.3 JCP&L Pruning.** Mr. Grubb reported that Nelson Tree Service, a JCP&L vendor, completed pruning along Summit and that results were less than desirable. STO reported that the gentlemen's agreement with JCP&L is that the vendor would contact the Borough prior to undertaking scheduled work in the Borough. STO will look into the issue.

- 3.1.4 **Downtown Trees.** Planting of downtown trees is on hold pending funds. Funds designated for the trees have gone to grates for trees already planted downtown. These grates have not been installed. STO to ask Borough Clerk and DPW for status of tree grate installation.
 - 3.1.5 **Shade Tree Donation.** The STO was contacted by a representative of the Hightstown Garden Club, which wants to plant a tree (or trees) in the Borough in celebration of its 40th year. Park locations are preferred and the STO will work with the Club to determine a good location and tree species. The Borough may be asked to provide a plaque.
 - 3.2 **Parks and Recreation.** No report.
 - 3.3 **Clean and Green.** No report.
 - 3.4 **Link to EW Greenway.** Follow-up to meeting of 28 November with representatives of the EW EC has not taken place, pending scheduling by EW. Concerns have been raised that the engineering study work that will be required for the bridge crossing may be difficult to fund.
 - 3.5 **Bank Street Mill Property.** No update.
 - 3.6 **Greenway Test Spraying.** No update to previous reports. Spraying for weeds within the gravel pathway was accomplished and results will be reviewed in the spring.
 - 3.7 **Budget.** The few remaining funds in the EC budget were tagged for carry-over to next year's budget.
 - 3.8 **Buy Local Recipes.** Ms. Alio completed several Holiday recipes that used locally grown produce. These were supposed to be posted to the Borough website. Ms. Jones will look into the status.
 - 3.9 **Municipal Assessment.** Jennifer Coffey of the Stony-Brook Millstone Watershed Association will meet with us at our January Meeting of 27 January 2007 to tell us how the Association can help us to develop policy regarding our waterways.
 - 3.10 **Coloring Book.** Winners of the coloring book contest were selected and announced. U.S. Savings Bonds were distributed to two winners. One winner, Lilly Lumkong, was in attendance.
- 4.0 **New Business**
- 4.1 **Grants.** New opportunities are very limited. The most recent State grant opportunity was for the development of a Comprehensive Shade Tree Management Plan, which has already been accomplished by the EC. The EC will look into other grants early in 2009.

- 4.2 **Pedestrian and Bicycle Alliance.** Public attendee, Clare Lumkong, suggested that the EC contact the Alliance to have them do a Municipal Assessment and Bicycle Rodeo. The Alliance can help to make the Borough safer for pedestrians and bicycles.
- 4.3 **Green City USA.** The EC is being encouraged to look into becoming a Green City under the Green City USA program. Ms. Alio will contact the Bordentown EC to determine how this Program has worked for them (they are already Green City participants). EC will consider this Program for a 2009 initiative.
- 4.4 **NJ Turnpike Waiver.** In relation to the Turnpike widening project (Exits 6 to 9) the Turnpike Authority has requested a waiver of several State requirements related to runoff. The comment period is 15 days beginning at the date of receipt of the letter (which was 17 December 2008). The EC was displeased with the length of time allotted for the review and the level of information provided with respect to the requested waivers and voted unanimously to disapprove the request. Mr. Zaiser to write a letter to the State conveying these points.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Zaiser

31 December 2008

Distribution:

Environmental Commission
Borough Administrator