

Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: April 26, 2011 / 7:30 PM
Meeting Location: Council Meeting Room
Attendees: Barbara Jones – Chair
Yan Troizier – Vice Chair
David Zaiser - Shade Tree Official
Gary Grubb
Keith LePrevost
Donna LePrevost
Harold Mulleavey - Secretary
Borough: Rick Pratt – Hightstown Historic Committee
Public: The Hightstown High School Project Green Group

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Chair Barbara Jones

The Chair announced the meeting conformed to the Open Meetings Act stating its date, time and location advertised in the Borough's newspapers of record.

Public Discussion:

The Project Green Group, a new after school Club where environmental Lifestyle alternatives are discussed presented ideas they wish to implement in Hightstown. Some concepts presented involved were a courtyard garden for people/animals, soil testing, Farmers Market stand and Micro hydro electricity pipeline at the Peddie lake dam. The EC offered the Group their support and assistance in the future. The Group indicated they would polish their Presentation and share it with the EC. The EC would then connect with their regional contacts and discuss the Groups concepts.

Chair Barbara inquired if any there were any students in the Group interested in joining the HEC as the HHS student Liaison.

Discussion Summary:

- 1.0 Agenda Approval.** The draft agenda was unanimously approved (moved by KLePrevost, seconded by Mulleavey).
- 2.0 Approval of Minutes:** The February 22, 2011 meeting minutes were approved (Grubb approved, seconded by KLePrevost).
- 3.0 Shade Tree Matters:**
 - 3.1** Final design drawings are underway, but have not been resubmitted by the Borough Engineer. Dave stated the scope has increased to include an easterly sidewalk from Morrison to Stockton initially, followed by a new sidewalk from Morrison to Prospect.

- 3.2 Green Community Grant has been approved. Consultant RFP's under review.
 - 3.3 Borough Tree Inventory: There are a few small remaining areas in the Borough where trees need to be evaluated. This is scheduled for mid Spring 2011.
 - 3.4 114 Park Avenue Street Tree. Keith related a discussion he had with Mrs. Bontempo (resident at this address) who felt that they had not been dealt with fairly with respect to the status of the tree in front of their house. EC to them the BonTempo's a formal letter ending this open issue.
 - 3.5 Removal at 161 Lincoln. Keith noted that a street tree may have been removed at 161 Lincoln. Dave to investigate.
 - 3.6 WC Black school trees along Morrison are in bad shape & under warranty Dave to investigate.
 - 3.7 Tree Ordinance. There was general discussion about re-writing the tree ordinance to expand its scope.
- 4.0 Parks and Recreation:**
- 4.1 Rocky Brook Resource Center Boardwalk: Completing the Boardwalk is a major Goal with Parks & Recreation and the Environmental Commission. Volunteer assistance is vital to completing this Boardwalk.
 - 4.2 Greenway Responsibility: Parks/Recreation and Environmental Commission need to meet and discuss the Greenway responsibility.
- 5.0 Sustainable New Jersey:**
- 5.1 Update from the DEP indicates our certified Sustainable Point summary is 160. We will need to reapply for Sustainable NJ by end of year.
- 6.0 Tree Plantings:**
- 6.1 Rosenberg Tree Donation. Gary to mark the two planting locations. Utility mark outs are complete.
 - 6.2 Yan to send out an email to the property owners regarding the proposed 15 tree plantings set for May 14th
 - 6.3 A tree planting is scheduled in Association Park on 5/14. The Paws Walk event will occur in the Park on the 5/14.
 - 6.4 HHS new tree planting drive is a new Project for the students. This Project enables students and anyone interested in planting new trees on the HS property.
- 7.0 Natural Resource Inventory:**
- 7.1 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Comm. (DVRPC) and Amy Greene Associates submitted cost proposals to provide this Inventory. An ANJEC \$3K w a 50% matching grant will assist in funding payment for the Inventory. EC and Borough reviewing the cost proposals

8.0 Greenways:

- 8.1** Easement concerns on hold pending Chairs discussion with Ms. McGee of the SBMW.
- 8.2** EW EC to attend one of our meetings. Date TBD.

9.0 EC Website:

- 9.1** The Commission voted to establish an EC link on the Boroughs Website. Harold will take the lead in contacting Gary Stevens and Harold will then be responsible for updating the EC Website link in a timely manner.

10.0 Master Plan:

- 10.1** The Commission needs to garner pertinent information and establish long terms goals for the EC's input to the Boroughs upcoming Master Plan Modification. The updated Natural Resource Inventory should provide some info for the Master Plan.

11.0 Storm Water and Stream Water Ordinance:

- 11.1** Chair Barbara to contact Ms. McGee of SBMW to assist in updating the two Ordinances.

12.0 EC Membership:

- 12.1** The HHS Project Green Group to propose a Student to be a Liaison to EC.
- 12.2** The Commission discussed the merits having a Peddie Student and/or Faculty member as a Liaison to the Commission. David will speak with John Green regarding this Liaison.
- 12.3** EC continues to need a second Alternate

13.0 Lowes Grant:

- 13.1** A Grant ranging from \$5,000 and \$25,000 for Environmental oriented activities was submitted by Chair Barbara.

14.0 Leading Green:

- 14.1** Hightstown's Application was nominated. Chair Barbara to follow up the next requirements.

15.0 Hightstown Historic Society:

- 15.1** Mr. Pratt presented the Society's Draft Master Plan Element. He requested the EC review & respond to the Element's section E "Planning Recommendations" paragraph 6.

16.0 2011 Community Events:

- 16.1 Harvest Fair** - EC to evaluate what we present/display at the upcoming Harvest Fair. Ideas welcomed.
- 16.2 Spring Clean Up** – Occurred on April 3 btwn 1pm and 3pm. The results were an overwhelming success. SBMW stated around 70 people collected

over 500lbs of trash. EC to formally contact Sal's Pizzeria for the generous amount of pizza donated to the Clean Up.

17.0 Planning Board Items:

17.1 No new Applications submitted or pending issues at this time.

18.0 Meeting Conclusion:

18.1 This EC Business Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

18.2 Next EC Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the First Aid Squad.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold Mulleavey

Harold Mulleavey

Secretary

Hightstown Environmental Commission