

Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: May 22, 2012 / 7:30 PM
Meeting Location: Meeting Room
First Aid Squad Building
Attendees: Barbara Jones (Chair)
Yan Troizier (Vice-Chair)
Gary Grubb
Keith LePrevost
Donna LePrevost
Steve Misiura (Planning Board Liaison)
Gail Doran (Council Liaison)
Public: Isabel McGinty

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chair, Barbara Jones.

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

Discussion Summary:

1.0 Agenda Approval

1.1 The agenda was moved by Keith and Seconded by Gary. The agenda was approved.

2.0 Approval of Minutes for meeting of the April, 201 2.

2.1 Approval of the minutes was moved by Gary and seconded by Donna. The minutes were approved as written.

3.0 Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

3.1 The ERI is on the agenda for the next Planning Board Meeting. Barbara will send sample agenda and resolutions to Steve for Planning Board attorney review. Planning Board meeting is on June 11. Gail does not see a problem getting the ERI on the Council agenda on June 18. Gail suggested we distribute copies to all council members ahead of time so that there is not a problem.

4.0 Stormwater Ordinance

4.1 Same situation as above- On the Planning Board agenda for June 11 and hopefully on Council Agenda. Barbara is concerned because the Borough engineer is embedded in the document. Keith discussed the Housing Authority project and the grant he is working on for storm water solutions. The Housing Authority site can become a "teaching center" for storm water solutions the town can use to show homeowners

and business owners the simple steps they can take to reduce runoff. Steve will address the Planning Board Attorney and Engineer regarding the Environmental commissions concerns with the re-written ordinance. Stressing the fact that over 1000 square feet of soil disturbance or 250 square feet of impervious coverage will only require an Environmental Commission review- engineer will only be involved in projects over the state mandated limit of one quarter acre.

5.0 Shade Tree Report

5.1 The commissions discussed the 2 large dead trees in Association Park. The one has been dead for 2 years and the other has been dying for the last year. The trees need to be removed before someone is hurt or worse in that park.

5.2 The JCP&L crew, Nelson Tree Service is back to do a lot of the work along the primary power lines. They asked specifically about the Pears on Stockton at the intersection of Summit. They are recommending removing the trees as further pruning will not look great. No decision has been made. David reviewed a condition where a tree root penetrated the foundation and slab of a house at 100 Morrison. The owner claimed the root lifted the slab- which could not be evidenced due to the removal of the slab beforehand. The owner was allowed to prune the tree root outside the foundation line. We will keep an eye on this large London Plane.

6.0 Parks and Recreation Liaison

6.1 Gary reported 18 Girl scouts planted petunias downtown at Monument Park. Gail thanked Gary for the beautiful baskets in the Downtown this year.

6.2 The Stage in Association Park. The commission discussed in detail the proposed stage in Association Park. A consensus was formed stating that we need to develop a process in town whereas when a project of any sort is proposed- whether it is a volunteer organization or major development, there is a consistent process that must be followed so that all the details are reviewed, the public is well informed and we do not end up with a project that is ready to go into the ground with so many questions and issues surrounding it. The Commission is very concerned with its location in Association Park, they feel it is better suited in Memorial Park, there are ADA issues with the structure and it is unclear who will be maintaining this structure in the future.

7.0 New Business

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50PM

The next meeting will be June 26th 7:30 PM at the First Aid Squad Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allen Keith LePrevost

June 8, 2012

Distribution: Environmental Commission, Borough Clerk