

Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: February 25th, 2014 / 7:00 PM
Meeting Location: Community Room
Hightstown Housing Authority
Attendees: Barbara Jones
Yan Troizier (Vice-Chair)
Gary Grubb
David Zaiser (STO)
Terry Parliaros
Donna LePrevost
Keith LePrevost
Jeremy Everett
Harold Mulleavey, Planning Board
High School Liaison Absent

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the 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 David motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Donna.
Approved.

2.0 Approval of Minutes for meeting of the April 23rd^h meeting.

2.1 Donna motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by David.
Approved.

3.0 Shade Tree

3.1 David notified the commission the annual reports are done and at the State.

3.2 We met all the requirements of Tree City, with the borough giving us a letter they spent over \$30K in chipping and pruning.

3.3 JCPL project. We need to ask them to specifically map and mark the trees they are going to cut for the power line extension. Then we will be able to get a count on how many trees are affected.

4.0 Parks and Recreation.

4.1 Gary discussed his discussions with Peddie regarding the walking bridge. He and Barbara will follow up with Peddie.

5.0 Spring Clean-up

5.1 Joan from the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed has notified us we have a large contingent of kids from Peddie that are willing to help. We will break up into 2 groups and address the board walk in Rocky Brook Park and clean up litter and debris from around town. Keith will finalize the poster to be distributed downtown and put up on Facebook and Twitter. Everyone will meet in the Tavern on the Lake parking area at 9:00AM. Our annual Arbor Day tree planting will be at 12:00PM at Memorial Park. The commission discussed materials they will need, including 18-24 steel rods to stake the boardwalk in place. Harold will see if he has them to donate.

6.0 Snow- and our downtown.

6.1 Keith and Donna witnessed our Borough employees clearing the side streets of town with backhoes and dump trucks, and then proceeding to dump the snow on the streams bank. They went around and found the town was using the area of the boat ramp by the lake as a snow dump, our Environmental Park on Bank Street as a snow dump and on the streams edge behind the fire house. Keith took detailed pictures of the 2 sites and sent them to the Administrator, mayor, Barbara Jones and Joan McGee of The Stony Brook Millstone Watershed. Keith feels the town needs to do the right thing- we gave the town Council 6 alternate sites in October of 2011, which were not used. The administrator has not reached out to Keith. Barbara will make an appointment and go and discuss.

7.0 Sustainable Jersey.

7.1 Keith reported that he has been reviewing our previous Sustainable Jersey submissions and the responses the reviewer have provided. He feels encouraged that if we spend this year, breaking up the tasks we should be able to accomplish certification in next year's round. Most of our submissions are out of date or expiring, so this year is not possible. Keith detailed how with just modernizing a few of our previous submissions with the proper documentation, we can easily accomplish Bronze certification. The commission decided to have a meeting dedicated to SJ in the near future.

8.0 Other grants.

- 8.1 Keith discussed the ANJEC Open Space Grant that is due early in April. He suggested a project that involves creating a map of Rocky Brook Park, identifying the habitat, the wetlands areas and how they work to filter runoff water, tree and plant species, and indigenous wildlife in the area. We will have signs with brochure boxes for literature and maps, tags for trees and plants. We will plan an event to publicize our project. The commission like the idea, Keith will pursue.

9.0 Other business

- 9.1 March 30th is the Environmental Fair at St. Anthony's'. Keith will prepare the displays. Donna, Jan and Barbara will also attend.
- 9.2 Harvest Fair. Gary discussed the problems they are having with leadership and organization. They need help. Terry suggested the go to a paid organizers for the fair, due to the size and scope of the event. Barbara thinks they should set up an "umbrella" meeting with members of all the commissions. Perhaps some new blood would be good. Everyone agreed the Harvest Fair needs to have more high quality venders, and less of the dollar store stuff.
- 9.3 Shredding Event is set up for April 26th. The Borough will contribute \$300 of the cost. We will approach business's to raise the balance.
- 9.4 The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission has several grants available for municipalities. We should consider one for our Sustainable Jersey application.
- 9.5 Planning Board. Harold updated the commission on upcoming applications and the status of the Master Plan review.

Meeting was adjourned at **8:58PM**.

The next meeting will be **January 22, at 7:30 PM** at the Housing Authority Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allen Keith LePrevost

January 9, 2013

Distribution: Environmental Commission, Borough Clerk