

Borough of Hightstown

Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Meeting

October 24, 2017

Masonic Lodge

Attendees: Barbara Jones, David Zaiser (STO, chairman), Gary Grubb, Yan Troizier (secretary), Ed DiFiglia (Stony Brook Millstone Watershed), Joshua Jackson (Planning Board liaison), Tara Misiura (HHS liaison), Todd Frantz

Public: Keith and Donna LePrevost, Sandra Johnson, Charles Harlich (309 Lincoln Avenue)

The meeting was called to order at 7.00 pm by the Chair, David Zaiser.

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.

1.0 Agenda approval -

Yan Troizier motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Barbara Jones.

2.0 Approval of minutes -

Todd Frantz motioned to approve the September minutes, seconded by Gary Grubb.

3.0 Street Shade Tree matters

3.1 Tree ordinance – to provide protection for trees not located on Borough's property.

Ed will provide examples of other town's tree ordinance.

3.2 Stockton Tree pruning – DPW to be contacted. In addition, Gary and Yan are planning to perform some tree pruning on some smaller size trees.

3.3 Fall tree planting – Bid from Growing Concern, Inc. was the only bid received. Budget is \$ 2,400. Barbara motioned to approve Growing Concern's bid, seconded by Gary.

3.4 Lincoln, Hagemount, Rocky Brook streets improvement project – David met with Borough's engineer early October to review trees to be removed. The final goal is to plant one tree per residential lot.

Sandra Johnson has gathered a petition from residents of Hagemount and Lincoln to not remove any trees. David will send a memo to Council with the petition attached as a starting point. Sandra Johnson said that she will go to the next Council meeting to support her petition.

Keith LePrevost proposes to install bigger caliper trees than recently installed.

4.0 Parks and Recreation

No progress on Dawes Park redesign of the basket ball court.

Rocky Brook old building – proposal to transform the building into a new platform.

5.0 Sustainable Jersey

EC received the Bronze certification after re-submission (September 10, 2017).

EC will send the mayor a formal invitation to receive the certification in Atlantic City on November 14, 2017.

7.0 Old business

- El Zorro – Stormwater management review – 20 % increase of total impervious surface. No change to the initial plan from Planning Board meeting. No mitigation recommended from the extra water generated by the new parking lot (10 spaces).

- Harvest Fair results –
Paddle boats generated \$ 340.
The tree canopy pledge gathered 8 signatures. Residents commit to plant one tree on their lot.
The 'Tree plaque' needs to be installed at the Borough hall to recognize residents who donated.

- Tree ID workshop – by Kevin Scibillia – was very successful.

- Meadow Lake Environmental group has interest in working with the Hightstown EC.

Tara Misura was voted in to be our Hightstown High School liaison.

Tara will provide the EC with some ideas to promote and develop environmental awareness in conjunction with the High School.

- 114 West Ward Street – David will send comments back to planning board for water management (rain garden, rain barrel) around dwelling.
- Timber Run – Gary Grubb mentioned that the area is collecting debris, and needs to be cleaned out. David will communicate with DPW to schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.09 pm.

The next meeting will be November 21 at 7.00 pm – Masonic Lodge

Respectfully submitted,

Yan Troizier –