

Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

DRAFT

Environmental Commission (EC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: 26 September 2017 / 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Masonic Lodge

Attendees: Todd Frantz
Gary Grubb
Connor Montferrat (Council Liaison)
Yan Troizier
David Zaiser (Acting Chair and STO)

Public: Ed DiFiglia (SBMWA), Sandra Johnson, Steve Misiura, Tara Misiura

Absent: Joanna Jackson, Josh Jackson, Barbara Jones

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Acting Chair, David Zaiser.

Mr. Zaiser 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.

Discussion Summary:

1.0 Agenda Approval. The proposed agenda was moved by Yan Troizier, seconded by Gary Grubb and passed unanimously.

2.0 Approval of Minutes. Minutes were revised to include Ed DiFiglia as attending. Approval for minutes from the meeting of 22 August 2017 as revised were moved by Todd Frantz, seconded by David Zaiser and unanimously approved.

3.0 Shade Tree Matters

3.1 109 Taylor Avenue Tree Update. This Sweetgum is being cabled at the cost of the homeowner. Action was accepted by the STO.

3.2 Expansion of the Current Tree Ordinance. This issue is temporarily tabled.

3.3 Pruning on Stockton Street. Chair to coordinate timing with DPW.

3.4 Tree Planting Program. Bid documents were sent to 4 firms, but only one firm responded. STO will attempt to secure additional bids in time for planting to be accomplished this fall.

3.5 Lincoln, Hagemount, Rocky Brook Sidewalks. Borough is seeking a grant to install sidewalks along these streets. Borough Engineer issued a sketch showing potential tree removals (STO to circulate sketch among attendees). These removals are not imminent, but STO and others will work with the Borough Engineer to develop plans that are tree friendly – providing for at least one street tree for each residential lot and replacement for every tree removed.

4.0 Parks and Recreation Liaison

4.1 Dawes Park Basketball Courts. No update on Dawes Park courts.

4.2 Rocky Brook Park. Gary passed along a resident's suggestion for more advertising for the Park. EC will follow up with Borough, post on Facebook.

5.0 Sustainable New Jersey

5.1 Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Reports. Connor Montferrat resubmitted the tree management plan and the tree canopy goal, which was revised to target a 25% coverage goal for the Borough. This goal will require the planting of trees throughout the Borough, especially

on private land. EC will pursue a program to have residents pledge to plant a tree on their property before Arbor Day 2018. Program will be publicized at Harvest Fair.

6.0 Fundraising

- 6.1 Paddle Boats. Thanks to Todd Frantz and Barbara Jones who managed the paddleboats since our last meeting and collected \$72 for the Commission.

7.0 Stormwater Submissions for Review

- 7.1 El Zorro Submission. The El Zorro submission was postponed from the September to the October Planning Board meeting. EC members are encouraged to attend the Planning Board meeting on Monday, 10/9, to support our recommendations to improve the stormwater management on that property.

8.0 Harvest Fair

- 8.1 Booth. Gary Grubb will try to find an extra tent for our use.
- 8.2 Staffing. Paddleboats: AM – Josh Jackson with Volunteer Helper, PM – Barbara Jones with Volunteer Helper. Booth: AM – Yan Troizier and David Zaiser, PM – David Zaiser and additional volunteer to be named.
- 8.3 PR and Educational Programs: Will kick-off the tree planting program (first 50 pledges will receive a tree refrigerator magnet). Reprints of Greenway brochure. Poster of Borough with Greenway location – Yan Troizier will print from graphic provided by Chair. Brochures explaining anti-litter and anti-smoking ordinances. Brochure for Tree Identification Workshop.

9.0 Tree Identification Workshop

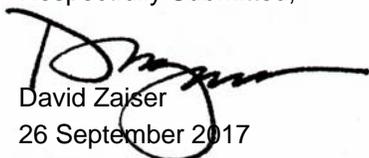
- 9.1 Workshop. Tree expert, Kevin Scibilia will lead the workshop. All welcome. 9-11AM, Saturday, October 21st at Dawes Park. May walk around the Borough to see specific tree conditions.

10.0 New Business

- 10.1 Meadow Lakes Liaison. Chair has been trying to connect with the chair of the Meadow Lakes environmental organization, and has already invited that contact to our EC meetings.
- 10.2 Hightstown High School Liaison. Tara Misiura (attendee) expressed her interest in being a liaison between the EC and the HHS Green Team.
- 10.3 Outside Meetings: Ed DiFiglia noted the following upcoming meeting opportunities: Sustainable Jersey Discussion at Mercer County Sustainability Coalition (October 27th at Lawrence Township); ANJEC Conference on October 13th – Gary Grubb will attend; The Watershed's Fest is October 14th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM. The next meeting will be 24 October at 7:00 PM at the Masonic Lodge.

Respectfully Submitted,


David Zaiser
26 September 2017

Distribution: Environmental Commission, Borough Clerk