

# Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

## Environmental Commission (EC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: 28 March 2017 / 7:00 PM  
Meeting Location: Masonic Lodge  
Attendees: Barbara Jones  
Todd Franz  
Gary Grubb  
Joanna Jackson  
Joshua Jackson (Planning Board Liaison)  
Connor Montferrat (Council Liaison)  
David Zaiser (Acting Chair and STO)  
Public: Ed DiFiglia (SBMWA)  
Absent: Yan Troizier

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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 Barbara Jones, seconded by Josh Jackson and passed unanimously.
- 2.0 New Member.** Chair welcomed new member, Todd Franz to the EC.
- 3.0 Approval of Minutes.** Minutes from the meeting of 28 February 2017 meeting were moved by Barbara Jones, seconded by Joanna Jackson and unanimously approved.
- 4.0 Shade Tree Matters**
  - 4.1 New 5-Year Community Forestry Management Plan. Since the last meeting, we received review comments back from the State. STO has been in contact with our consultant, Kevin Scibilia, to address the comments.
  - 4.2 Expansion of the Current Tree Ordinance. No update.
  - 4.3 Arbor Day. The Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association is teaming with the EC to support a clean-up on the morning of the Borough's Arbor Day celebration, Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. The Borough has passed a resolution in honor of Arbor Day for that date. A tree will be planted in Association Park at noon. STO to provide Joanna Jackson with info to post on the EC Facebook site. The Patch may also be a good place to post the announcement.
- 5.0 Parks and Recreation Liaison**
  - 5.1 Pedestrian Bridge Update. According to Gary Grubb, the bridge may soon become a reality. The State has stepped in and addressed some of the last remaining roadblocks (third party inspections, etc.).
  - 5.2 Community Garden. Plots available.
- 6.0 Sustainable New Jersey**
  - 6.1 Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Reports. Goal to submit for points ahead of the 4 June early submission deadline. Connor Montferrat will lead the SJ recertification effort. Mr.

Montferrat has confirmed that the EC requires only 45 new points to maintain the bronze certification level. The EC voted unanimously to proceed with the process based upon the following responsibilities (note that none were discussed specifically during the meeting):

- 6.1.1 Animals in the Community, Companion Animal Pledge, Companion Animal Pledge. Water Conservation Education. Mr. Jackson responsible.
- 6.1.2 Climate Adaption/Flood Risk, Safe Routes, Complete Streets, Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit. Ms. Jackson responsible.
- 6.1.3 Community Garden, Farmers' Market. Dr. Jones will support efforts by Mr. Grubb, who has already collected articles and related support data for the SJ submission.
- 6.1.4 Rain Gardens, Green Grounds, Efficient Landscape Design, IPM, Recycled Materials, Composting. Mr. Troizier is responsible.
- 6.1.5 Community Forestry Management Plan, Tree Protection Ordinance, Tree Hazard Inventory, Tree Maintenance, Tree Planting. STO is working with the iTree program, which can be submitted for SJ points.
- 6.1.6 Arts and Creative Culture, Historic Preservation Element. Mr. Montferrat suggested that Demetri Musing might be the best contact from the Arts Council to develop the documentation for this SJ submission.
- 6.1.7 Outreach Campaign for Local Businesses. Lumkong working with schools. Mr. Zaiser reported that the district is in the process of identifying a Green Team. Mr. Montferrat suggested speaking to Lee Stults. Chair to follow-up.
- 6.1.8 Green Team, Community Ed and Outreach, Anti-Idling, NRI. Mr. Montferrat highlighted discussion at the recent Council meeting in which he asked that the Council reconfirm support for the anti-idling ordinance.
- 6.1.9 Diversity. Boards and Commission membership should reflect the diversity of their community. Responsibility was not identified for this

## **7.0 Budget**

- 7.1 EC Budget. Chair submitted a budget for \$5,895. Most of the budget was for new trees. Mr. Montferrat announced that the Council approved a \$3,500 budget (see attached) which will allow for the planting of 6 trees this year. STO suggested that funds for tree planting will have to be secured through other sources if the Borough tree canopy is to be maintained. Mr. Montferrat recommended that STO contact George Lang at the Borough to discuss options, and also suggested that the STO make a presentation to Council.

## **8.0 Planning Board Application**

- 8.1 505 Summit. Permit for a new driveway. EC recommended several small scale mediations: rain barrels, bio swales, gravel or pervious paving. Chair to write memo to Planning Board (George Chin).

**9.0 Related Announcements**

- 9.1 SBMW Festival. To be held on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. 10K / 5K run and other festivities.
- 9.2 SBMW Tree Planting. To be held at the Watershed on 8 April at 10AM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next meeting will be 25 April 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Masonic Lodge.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Zajser  
17 April 2017

Distribution: Environmental Commission, Borough Clerk