

Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: May 24, 2011 / 7:30 PM
Meeting Location: Council Meeting Room
Attendees: David Zaiser - Shade Tree Official
Donna LePrevost
Keith LePrevost
Harold Mulleavey - Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm by Secretary Harold Mulleavey

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

Discussion Summary:

- 1.0 Agenda Approval.** The draft agenda was unanimously approved (moved by KLePrevost, seconded by Zaiser).
- 2.0 Approval of Minutes:** The February 22, 2011 meeting minutes were approved (DLePrevost approved, seconded by KLePrevost).
- 3.0 Shade Tree Matters:**
 - 3.1** Final design drawings are underway, but have not been resubmitted by the Borough Engineer. Status quo since the EC April business meeting.
 - 3.2** Green Community Grant has been approved. Final paperwork sent to the State. Dave is writing RFP for local tree firms.
 - 3.3** Borough Tree Inventory: There are a few small remaining areas in the Borough where trees need to be evaluated. David to talk to Yan to set up a date.
 - 3.4** 114 Park Avenue Street Tree. Keith related a discussion he had with Mrs. Bontempo (resident at this address) who felt that they had not been dealt with fairly with respect to the status of the tree in front of their house. Dave to send the BonTempo's a formal letter ending this open issue.
 - 3.5** 161 Lincoln Ave. Keith noted that a street tree may have been removed at 161 Lincoln. Dave to determine if tree is on Borough property..
 - 3.6** WC Black school trees along Morrison have been taken down.
 - 3.7** Tree Ordinance. There was general discussion about re-writing the tree ordinance to expand its scope. Status quo since the EC April business meeting. David thinks he may reissue the Association Park Report.

4.0 Parks and Recreation:

- 4.1 Rocky Brook Resource Center Boardwalk: Completing the Boardwalk is a major Goal with Parks & Recreation and the Environmental Commission. Volunteer assistance is vital to completing this Boardwalk.
- 4.2 Greenway Responsibility: Parks/Recreation to discuss and respond to taking over the Greenway responsibility.

5.0 Sustainable New Jersey:

- 5.1 Update from the DEP indicates our certified Sustainable Point summary is 160. We will need to reapply for Sustainable NJ by end of year.

6.0 Tree Plantings:

- 6.1 Rosenberg Tree Donation. Gary to mark the two planting locations. Utility mark outs are complete.
- 6.2 A Cherry tree planting occurred in Association Park on 5/15.
- 6.3 HHS new tree planting drive is a new Project for the students. This Project enables students and anyone interested in planting new trees on the HS property. This drive has been well received by the Mayor.

7.0 Natural Resource Inventory:

- 7.1 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Comm. (DVRPC) and Amy Greene Associates submitted cost proposals to provide this Inventory. EC and Borough reviewing the cost proposals

8.0 Greenways:

- 8.1 Easement concerns on hold pending Chairs discussion with Ms. McGee of the SBMW.
- 8.2 EW EC to attend one of our meetings. Date TBD.

9.0 EC Website:

- 9.1 The Commission voted to establish an EC link on the Boroughs Website. Harold will take the lead in contacting Gary Stevens and Harold will then be responsible for updating the EC Website link in a timely manner.

10.0 Master Plan:

- 10.1 The Commission needs to garner pertinent information and establish long terms goals for the EC's input to the Boroughs upcoming Master Plan Modification. The updated Natural Resource Inventory should provide some info for the Master Plan.

11.0 Storm Water and Stream Water Ordinance:

- 11.1** Chair Barbara to contact Ms. McGee of SBMW to assist in updating the 2 Ordinances.

12.0 EC Membership:

- 12.1** The HHS Project Green Group to propose a Student to be a Liaison to EC.
12.2 The Commission discussed the merits having a Peddie Student and/or Faculty member as a Liaison to the Commission. David will speak with John Green regarding this Liaison.
12.3 EC continues to need a second Alternate

13.0 Lowes Grant:

- 13.1** A Grant ranging from \$5,000 and \$25,000 for Environmental oriented activities was submitted by Chair Barbara. We need to determined where we need trees for this Grant

14.0 Leading Green:

- 14.1** Hightstown's Application was nominated. Chair Barbara to follow up the next requirements.

15.0 Hightstown Historic Society:

- 15.1** Mr. Pratt presented the Society's Draft Master Plan Element. He requested the EC review & respond to the Element's section E "Planning Recommendations" paragraph 6.

16.0 Stockton Street Trees:

- 16.1** Numerous trees of varied species have been removed during the street/sidewalk construction. Council will be looking for guidance for those tree replacements

17.0 2011 Community Events:

- 17.1 Harvest Fair** - EC to evaluate what we present/display at the upcoming Harvest Fair. Ideas welcomed.
17.2 Spring Clean Up – Occurred on April 3 btwn 1pm and 3pm. The results were an overwhelming success. SBMW stated around 70 people collected over 500lbs of trash. EC to formally contact Sal's Pizzeria for the generous amount of pizza donated to the Clean Up.

18.0 Planning Board Items:

- 18.1** No new Applications submitted or pending issues at this time.

19.0 Meeting Conclusion:

- 19.1** This EC Business Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.
19.2 Next EC Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold Mulleavey

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Secretary

Hightstown Environmental Commission