

Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: June 28, 2011 / 7:30 PM
Meeting Location: Council Meeting Room
Attendees: Barbara Jones – Chair
Yan Troisier – Vice Chair
David Zaiser - Shade Tree Official
Gary Grubb
Donna LePrevost
Keith LePrevost
Harold Mulleavey – Secretary

Guests: Steve Kirson – Mayor
Joan McGee – Stony Brook Millstone Watershed

The meeting was called to order at 7:37pm 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 Mulleavey, seconded by Zaiser).
- 2.0 Approval of Minutes:** The February 22, 2011 meeting minutes were approved (KLePrevost approved, seconded by Zaiser).
- 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 May business meeting.
 - 3.2** Green Community Grant has been approved. Dave is received 2 proposals from local firms for the Community Forestry Management Plan. The Commission voted and determined Kevin Scibilia of Robbinsville would provide those services for the EC.
 - 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. Dave sent the BonTempo's a formal letter on June 10, 2011.
 - 3.5** Lincoln St. near Hutchinson Ave: Dead Tree to be removed
 - 3.6** 118 Center St.: Sawtooth Oak grown into the house. DPW removed tree.
 - 3.7** 308 Park Ave.: Should be removed. Dave to contact DPW.

- 3.8 7 Ashton Lane : Possible insect infestation. Maintained by the Assoc.
 - 3.9 112 Park Ave.: Dave just got the call. Will investigate.
 - 3.10 Association Park : Two dead trees to be removed.
 - 3.11 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. Chair to send the Mayor more info on this issue. DPW created a drainage swale at Dey St. to the storm drain.
- 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.
 - 5.2 Chair stated a large Grant recently became available. Barbara to research.
- 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 Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Specialist Ms. Mcgee indicated the Stream Development regulation adj. water ways does not apply to Hightstown.
- 11.2 Submitted Storm Water ordinance scope and purposes to the Boro Engineer.
- 11.3 DEP requires that at least 50' from a stream corridor to any new developments. Ms Magee to email Chair more info on this issue.
- 11.4 HEC to reexamine the Storm Water report.
- 11.5 Two subcommittees to be formed to discuss each Ordinance.

12.0 EC Membership:

- 12.1 The HHS students Vincent Stokers and Alex Jarama are the new student liaisons to the Commission.
- 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. Commission should come to the next meeting with ideas how this funding can be spent.

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. This issue to be discussed and determined by the Historic Society

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 provide quests with pine cones w/peanut butter and birdseed. Greenway colored maps to be available.

18.0 Planning Board Items:

- 18.1** Americana Diner Parking Lot Expansion: Response sent to the Planning Board on July 3, 2011.
18.2 224-332 S. Academy St.: Response sent to the Plan. Board on July 3, 2011
18.3 William St, Seymour Investmnts: Response sent to Plan. Board on 7/3/11.
18.4 Franklin St, Yoga Studio: Response sent to the Plan. Board on 7/3/11.

19.0 ANJEC Grant review/ DVRPC Contract:

- 19.1** SBMW has worked with Municipalities in supplying info and editing proposals. Joan to contact Allison Hastings for reviewing Drafts.
19.2 Contract time is one year. Chair to send Mayor a copy of the contract.

20.0 Meeting Conclusion:

- 19.1** This EC Business Meeting adjourned at 9:53 PM.
19.2 Next EC Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold Mulleavey

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Secretary

Hightstown Environmental Commission