

Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: September 27, 2011 / 7:30 PM
Meeting Location: Council Meeting Room
Attendees: Barbara Jones – Chair
Yan Troizier – Vice Chair
David Zaiser - Shade Tree Official
Gary Grubb
Donna LePrevost
Keith LePrevost
Harold Mulleavey – Secretary

Quests: Amy Miller – Delaware Valley Regional Planning
Alison Hastings - “ “ “ “
Kerry Miller – ANJEC

The meeting was called to order at 7:37pm by the Chair.

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.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning (DVRPC) Discussion:

DVRPC provided scope of services outlined in the ERI. Borough Tour is set for 10/9 at 1pm meet at boro hall park. lot.

DVRPC handed out detail maps and correspondence re: services to be provided. DVRPC to scan map and basic info and send to HECChair. HEC to review/return comments back to DVRPC.

The ERI will be the catalyst for the HEC's input towards the Master Plan.

DVRPC requests the HEC to submit ant specialized info to them to supplement the proposal. All resources are welcomed, particularly about the aquatic & historic aspects in the Borough.

David to provide DVRPC with HEC's Street/Tree Plant Schedule.

ANJEC:

This service provided by ANJEC is funded by the Dodge Foundation.

ANJEC favors ERI Projects and will assist the HEC with the process..

Public Outreach is critical with resourcing the ERI.

ANJEC submitted a typical tasks/timetable in constructing the ERI.

HEC's first activity is a Press Release to the community.

HEC to contact the Planning Board and any other Borough Depts, Commissions, and Committee who may want to provide relevant info in the ERI.

ANJEC to provide HEC with digital copy of a successful ERI.

Discussion Summary:

- 1.0 Agenda Approval.** The draft agenda was unanimously approved (moved by Mulleavey, seconded by Zaiser).
- 2.0 Approval of Minutes:** The August, 2011 meeting minutes were approved (Troizier approved, seconded by Zaiser).
- 3.0 Shade Tree Matters:**
 - 3.1** David to set up Purchase Order for Kevin Scibilia.
 - 3.2** Stockton St construction damaged new trees in street yard. Trees to be rectified through that Contract's tree warranty.
 - 3.3** Red Buds along Morrison St need to be replaced.
 - 3.4** Housing Authority to prune all trees along Railroad Ave.
 - 3.5** 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.
 - 3.6** 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.
 - 4.3** Clean up Rocky Brook Park for the upcoming Fair.
 - 4.4** Storm erosion at Dawes Park created the need for mulching around landscaping and play equipment.
 - 4.5** Alternatives to the current Snow Dumping in Borough Parks to be researched. Keith to circulate Proposals for review/comment.
- 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** 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 Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI):**
 - 7.1** See notes above in "DVRPC Discussion".

8.0 Greenways:

- 8.1** Easement concerns on hold pending Chairs discussion with Ms. McGee of the SBMW.

9.0 Master Plan:

- 9.1** 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 Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) should provide some info for the Master Plan.

10.0 Storm Water and Stream Water Ordinance:

- 10.1** Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Specialist Ms. Magee indicated the Stream Development regulation adj. water ways does not apply to Hightstown.
- 10.2** 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 2011 Community Events:

- 15.1 Harvest Fair** - EC to provide quests with pine cones w/peanut butter and birdseed. Greenway colored maps to be available. Table staffing: Yan & Harold 9am-1pm; Donna & David 1pm-4pm.
- 15.2** Fall EC town wide Clean Up tentatively set for 11/2 8am-1pm

16.0 Planning Board Items:

- 16.1** William St, Seymour Investmnts: Resubmitted a revised Plan as per HEC's previous comments. HEC has no comments re: latest submission.

17.0 Meeting Conclusion:

17.1 This EC Business Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

17.2 Next EC Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold Mulleavey

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Secretary

Hightstown Environmental Commission