

# **Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission**

## **Environmental Commission Meeting**

Meeting Date/Time: 28 February 2012 / 7:30 PM  
Meeting Location: Meeting Room  
First Aid Squad Building  
Attendees: Barbara Jones (Chair)  
Yan Troizier (Vice-Chair)  
Gary Grubb  
David Zaiser (STO)  
Gail Doran (Council Liaison)  
Absentees: Donna LePrevost  
Keith LePrevost  
Planning Board: Steven Misiura (Chair)  
Fred Montferrat  
Guests: Amy Miller (Delaware Valley regional Planning  
Commission)  
Joan McGee (Stonybrook Millstone Watershed Assoc.)  
Cheryl Reardon (ANJEC)  
Public: William Carney  
Leigh Isleib  
Isabel McGinty  
Torry Watkins

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chair, Barbara Jones.

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

This was a combined meeting of the Borough Environmental Commission and Planning Board called to discuss the stormwater ordinance put forward by the EC and accepted by Council for consideration.

### **Discussion Summary:**

**1.0 Agenda Approval.** Motion for approval by Mr. Grub, seconded by Mr. Troizier. Unnanimously approved.

**2.0 Approval of Minutes for meeting of 24 January 2012.** Motion for approval by Mr. Troizier, seconded by Mr. Grubb. Unanimously approved.

### **3.0 Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) Presentation**

3.1 PowerPoint Presentation. Amy Miller from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) presented highlights from the ERI authored by the DVRPC. This public presentation of the Draft ERI is in keeping with the requirements for Borough's acceptance of the final ERI. ANJEC provided the grant that funded the work of the DVRPC.

3.2 Purpose. MS. Miller noted that the purpose of the ERI is as a source document for use in planning within the Borough. It is required for each municipality within the State.

3.3 Basic Organization of the ERI. The ERI is organized into 4 sections: Natural resources, Biological Resources, Built Environment, and Specific Environmental Concerns.

3.4 Major Concerns Highlighted in the ERI. There were several specific concerns highlighted in the ERI.

- There are no well head protection areas – areas identified around each of the Borough's well heads where development is limited and certain activities are not allowed so that potential for contamination of the well is reduced.
- Air quality is an issue in Hightstown as fine particulate pollution is higher than generally considered acceptable at certain times. Mercer County is a non-attainment county with respect to fine particulate.
- Flooding. 7% of the Borough is in the 100-year floodplain as defined by FEMA.

3.5 Acceptance of Draft. The Draft ERI was accepted by the EC for presentation to the Planning Board, which is targeted for 4/19. Ms. McGee highlighted her enthusiastic approval of the ERI and suggested that a brief paragraph be added describing the Borough's street tree program.

#### **4.0 Stormwater Ordinance**

4.1 Revised Draft Ordinance. Overall the EC and representatives from the Planning Board agree with the basic tenants of the ordinance, but there is still some concern about how best to codify the requirements. Issues include:

- New Ordinance is not Restrictive, but Educational. The ordinance would require smaller developments, including modest increases in impervious surface to be reviewed, but mitigation would be voluntary.
- Conflict with Major Site Plan Remediation. There is general agreement that the new ordinance should not create unintended conflicts or requirements with respect to the current stormwater ordinance, which targets larger site developments.
- Exceptions for Businesses. Some concern was voiced about creating undue restrictions on businesses.

4.2 Review by Borough Professionals. The EC recommended that the proposed ordinance be reviewed by the Planning Board's attorney and the Borough Engineer for their recommendations as to how best to codify and implement the new ordinance.

4.3 Planning Board Meeting of 19 April. This meeting was identified for presentation of the proposed ordinance for discussion and review. Representatives from the EC were encouraged to attend.

#### **5.0 Shade Tree Report**

5.1 No Report.

#### **6.0 Parks and Recreation Liaison**

6.1 Mulching of Donated Spruce Tree. Mr. Grubb noted that the donated spruce tree was installed in the Bank Street Park near the previously donated conifers and that the new spruce was recently mulched.

## **7.0 Spring Cleanup**

7.1 Clean-up Day. Scheduled for Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 9AM to noon, starting from the Police Station parking lot. Sponsored by the Stonybrook Millstone Watershed Association, which will recruit volunteers. Public is welcome.

## **8.0 NJ Fertilizer Law**

8.1 New Fertilizer Law in NJ. Mr. Troizier noted that the new law reduces the amount of nitrogen that fertilizers can have and eliminates phosphorous entirely. Commercial applicators must pass an exam to be allowed to apply fertilizers in New Jersey. Bagged fertilizers sold in New Jersey for residential use will be formulated according to the new rules (homeowners will likely notice reduced nitrogen content – phosphorous has not been used for some time). The law is in effect now.

## **9.0 New Business**

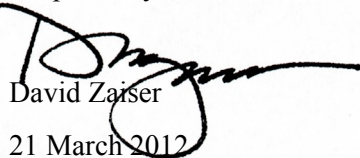
9.1 Route 33 Corridor Meeting on 14 March. Both the Borough and Township Planning Boards will meet at the Township Senior Center on Lanning Blvd. to witness a presentation of the Route 33 study to merge a portion of State Routes 130 and 33.

9.2 Environmental Fair. Mr. Isleib noted that the St. Anthony's of Padua Church is sponsoring an Environmental Fair on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to noon at the church. The fair targets younger residents, but all are welcome. The Borough EC will be on hand. Hightstown High School, The Peddie School and other groups will also be presenting. Local puppeteers, Rainbow and Mr. T will make a presentation at 10AM that day.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58PM.

The next meeting will be 28 March 2012, at 7:30 PM at the First Aid Squad Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Zaiser  
21 March 2012

Distribution: Environmental Commission, Borough Clerk