

# Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

**DRAFT**

## Environmental Commission (EC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: 28 November 2017 / 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Masonic Lodge

Attendees: Todd Frantz  
Gary Grubb  
Barbara Jones  
Connor Montferrat (Council Liaison)  
Yan Troizier  
David Zaiser (Acting Chair and STO)

Public: Ed DiFiglia (SBMWA), Sandra Johnson, Steve Misiura, Tara Misiura,  
Leigh Isleib

Absent: Joanna Jackson, Josh Jackson

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 Gary Grubb, seconded by Yan Troizier and passed unanimously.
- 2.0 Approval of Minutes.** Minutes from the October 24 meeting were revised to correct the spelling of Misiura and Harlich, and to expand the description of the streets involved in the improvement project highlighted in item 3.4. Approval for the revised minutes was moved by Barbara Jones, seconded by Todd Frantz and unanimously approved.
- 3.0 Shade Tree Matters**
  - 3.1 No Tree Work in the past month.
  - 3.2 Expansion of the Current Tree Ordinance. This issue is temporarily tabled.
  - 3.3 Pruning on Stockton Street. Discussion with DPW was not completed. Chair will coordinate for spring pruning.
  - 3.4 2017 Tree Planting Program. Low (and only) bidder was Growing Concern which will be planting the trees very soon.
  - 3.5 Lincoln, Hagemount, Rocky Brook Streets Improvement Project. Chair will be making a presentation to Council at its 4 December meeting. Goal of the discussion is for the EC to have a collaborative role in developing the holistic plans for the project where trees are integral to all of the design concerns. Within that strategy the EC is seeking for there to be not less than one street tree per residential lot at the completion of the project. EC members and the public were encouraged to attend.
- 4.0 Parks and Recreation Liaison**
  - 4.1 Dawes Park Basketball Courts. Parks and Recreation is seeking one more bid for the court improvements.
- 5.0 Sustainable New Jersey**
  - 5.1 Municipalities Conference Presentation of 4 November. The Mayor and Councilperson Bluth attended the luncheon presentation of the bronze certification for Sustainable Jersey. The plaque has been updated with the certification and will be hung in Borough

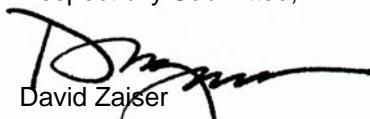
Hall. Hightstown received additional accolades for being among the municipalities that added the most points this year.

## **6.0 New Business**

- 6.1 Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association Presentation. Ed DiFiglia presented a PowerPoint presentation focused on stormwater management and water quality issues. Among the discussion points was the overall strategy proposed by the SBMWA for reducing non-point source water pollution: 1) Reduce threshold for major development requiring stormwater mitigation, 2) Create thresholds for minor development for same (Hightstown has already done this), 3) Focus on redevelopment, 4) Identify maintenance and enforcement measures for stormwater mitigation structures, 5) Emphasize non-structural stormwater mitigation measures, 6) Incorporate strict Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for pollutants in project review measures.
- 6.2 Litter Cleanup Project – Timber Run. Informed by SBMWA of our issues in keeping Timber Run free of trash, a West Windsor student group has developed a device to pull trash out of the water. They would like to test it on Timber Run (or Peddie Lake). Gary Grubb will work with the group to coordinate that effort.
- 6.3 Planning Board Review – 111 Orchard Avenue. The EC reviewed the submission, but there was not enough detail to make specific comments relative to trees or stormwater mitigation. Chair will forward request for additional project detail so that these concerns can be considered.
- 6.4 Meadow Lakes Environmental Committee. Mr. Leigh Isleib described the 8-member group that has formed at Meadow Lakes out of a larger Senior Advocates for Justice committee there. The environmental group has offered to liaise with the EC. Current initiatives at Meadow Lakes include: a floating wetland, an extensive arboretum, and planning for a 2018 Master Plan for the site.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. The next meeting will be 19 December at 7:00 PM at the Masonic Lodge.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
David Zaiser  
30 December 2017

Distribution: Environmental Commission, Borough Clerk