

# Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

## Environmental Commission (EC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: 5 January 2017 / 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Masonic Lodge

Attendees: Gary Grubb  
Joshua Jackson  
Joanna Jackson  
Yan Troizier  
David Zaiser (STO)

Public: None

Absent: Barbara Jones, Council Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM by David Zaiser (STO).

Mr. Zaiser announced that the meeting is in conformance with the Open Meetings Act having its date, time and location advertised by the Borough in publications of record.

### **Discussion Summary:**

- 1.0 Agenda Approval.** The proposed agenda was moved by Zaiser, seconded by Grubb and passed unanimously.
- 2.0 Approval of Minutes.** Minutes from the meeting of 27 September 2016 and 22 November 2016 were reviewed and approved with the following revision:
  - 2.1 Date of Next Meeting. Under 22 November Meeting, the next meeting date was to have been 20 December, but this meeting did not gain a quorum and was not held.
- 3.0 2017 Meeting Dates**
  - 3.1 Fourth Tuesdays of the Month. The EC will meet generally on this day each month at 7PM at the Masonic Lodge, with the exception of December, which will be held on the third Tuesday. The specific dates are: 1/24; 2/21; 3/28; 4/25; 5/23; 6/27; 7/25; 8/22; 9/26; 10/24; 11/28; 12/19 and the reorganization meeting of 1/2/2018.
- 4.0 Environmental Commission Officers**
  - 4.1 Chair. Barbara Jones has asked to step down as chair for an indefinite period of time during which David Zaiser will be acting chair. EC officers for 2017 were elected unanimously: David Zaiser (acting chair), Yan Troizier (Vice-Chair) and rotating secretaries for each monthly meeting.
- 5.0 Goals for 2017**
  - 5.1 Update Tree Policies. Revise current Tree Ordinance, Tree Maintenance and Planting Plans.
  - 5.2 Improve Fundraising (current ideas include a tree painting workshop in the spring along with the paddleboats).
  - 5.3 Develop an Environmental Education Campaign through greater PR, more interaction with the schools, and greater community outreach. Ideas discussed included: a Hightstown Cleanup Competition, and expansion of the Tree Maintenance workshop(s).
  - 5.4 Identify Additional EC Members (with the goal of filling all available seats with both permanent and substitute members).
  - 5.5 Identify and Apply for more Grants. The EC does not generally get a robust budget from the Borough – additional funds are necessary to doing the valuable work we should be doing.
  - 5.6 Work More Closely with Neighboring Commissions to both cooperate on larger projects and to gain insights into other ways of working.
  - 5.7 Sustainable New Jersey. Submit SJ application for review by June and then the final version for the November deadline

- 5.7.1 Josh: Animals in the Community\*, Companion Animal Pledge, Companion Animal Mgmt Plan,
- 5.7.2 Water Conservation Ed Plan
- 5.7.3 Joann: Climate Adaptation\*/ Flood Risk, Complete Streets\*, Bicycle and pedestrian Audit\*, B and P Plan
- 5.7.4 Gary: Community Garden\* Farmers Market\*
- 5.7.5 Yan: Raingardens, Green Grounds, Efficient Landscape Design, IPM, Recycled Materials and Composting,
- 5.7.6 David: Community Forestry Plan\*, Tree Protection Ordinance, Tree Hazard Inventory, Tree Maintenance, Tree Planting
- 5.7.7 Rick P: Arts and Creative Culture, Historic Preservation Element (need to reach out to him)
- 5.7.8 Claire: Outreach Campaign for Local Businesses (need to reach out to her)
- 5.7.9 Barbara: Green Team\*, Community Ed and Outreach, Anti-idling\*, NRI, EC

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM. The next meeting will be 24 January, at 7:00 PM at the Masonic Lodge.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
David Zaiser

7 January 2017

Distribution: Environmental Commission, Borough Clerk