

# Borough of Hightstown Environmental Commission

## Environmental Commission (EC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: 24 January 2017 / 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Masonic Lodge

Attendees: Barbara Jones

Gary Grubb

Joanna Jackson

Joshua Jackson (Planning Board Liaison)

Connor Montferrat (Council Liaison)

David Zaiser (Acting Chair and STO)

Public: Sandra Johnson, Donna LePrevost, Keith LePrevost, Ed

DiFiglia (SBMWA), Steven Tuorto (SBMWA)

Absent: Yan Troizier

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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 Josh Jackson, seconded by Joanna Jackson and passed unanimously.

**2.0 Approval of Minutes.** Minutes from the meeting of 5 January 2017 meeting were moved by Joanna Jackson, seconded by Josh Jackson and unanimously approved.

### **3.0 Shade Tree Matters**

3.1 New 5-Year Community Forestry Management Plan. Since the last EC meeting, the Final Plan was completed by our consultant, Kevin Scibilia and submitted for final review and EC approval.

3.2 Expansion of the Current Tree Ordinance. The EC's goal is to develop a tree ordinance that reduces the tendency for residents to pursue tree removals as a first option for property conflicts that include trees. Research is ongoing into tree ordinance samples from surrounding municipalities with similar goals.

3.3 Arbor Day. The Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association will team with the EC to support a clean-up on the morning of the Borough's Arbor Day celebration, Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. STO will alert the Borough Clerk to the date so that Council may pass a resolution in honor of Arbor Day.

### **4.0 Parks and Recreation Liaison**

4.1 No Update.

### **5.0 Sustainable New Jersey**

5.1 Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Reports. Goal to submit for points ahead of the 4 June early submission deadline.

5.1.1 Animals in the Community, Companion Animal Pledge, Companion Animal Pledge. Water Conservation Education. Mr. LePrevost noted that many SJ requirements have already been met through programs by the Borough's Animal Welfare organization (Mr. Jackson will review their Facebook page). Mr.

DiFiglia noted that the SBMWA is working on water conservation and could support Borough efforts.

- 5.1.2 Climate Adaption/Flood Risk, Safe Routes, Complete Streets, Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit. Kluxen is working with the Borough Engineer and reported that Complete Streets initiatives have already been put in place. Safe Routes to School is another program already in place that could lead to SJ points.
- 5.1.3 Community Garden, Farmers' Market. Dr. Jones will support efforts by Mr. Grubb, who has collected articles and related support data for the SJ submission.
- 5.1.4 Rain Gardens, Green Grounds, Efficient Landscape Design, IPM, Recycled Materials, Composting. Mr. Troizier is reportedly developing documentation, but there was general agreement that Public Works programs should be included as well.
- 5.1.5 Community Forestry Management Plan, Tree Protection Ordinance, Tree Hazard Inventory, Tree Maintenance, Tree Planting. STO is working with the iTree program, which can be submitted for SJ points.
- 5.1.6 Arts and Creative Culture, Historic Preservation Element. A liaison needs to be identified to work with the Arts Council to develop the documentation for this SJ submission.
- 5.1.7 Outreach Campaign for Local Businesses. Lumkong working with schools. Zaiser to follow-up with Lumkong for status report.
- 5.1.8 Green Team, Community Ed and Outreach, Anti-Idling, NRI. Anti-smoking and anti-idling complete. Mayor must establish the Green Team. Council Liaison to review with the Mayor. Mr. LePrevost to provide documentation for energy projects, and an innovative parking project for SJ points.
- 5.1.9 Diversity. Boards and Commission membership should reflect the diversity of their community.

## **6.0 Review of EC Officers**

- 6.1 New Members. Mr. and Mrs. LePrevost expressed interest in being EC members. Current members were asked to express their support for the LePrevosts to the Mayor.

## **7.0 SBMWSA 319 (h) Impervious Cover Reduction Program**

- 7.1 Stormwater Mitigation Program. Dr. Tuorto reported that the SBMWA is reviewing impervious surface within the Watershed. Several large properties (with a high percentage of impervious surface) have been identified in the Borough for which the SBMWA will develop stormwater mitigation measures, ultimately presenting these to property owners. A report will soon be available. The EC supports this program.
- 7.2 Peddie Lake Water Quality. Mr. Grubb noted that Tom Smith, a Borough resident, has been collecting water quality data for Peddie Lake.

## **8.0 Mercer County Sustainability Coalition**

- 8.1 Meetings. The Coalition is planning to meet evenings to allow for greater participation. The next meeting was to be held at the Mercer County Library in Lawrence Township on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM. The next meeting will be 28 February, at 7:00 PM at the Masonic Lodge.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Zaiser  
19 February 2017

Distribution: Environmental Commission, Borough Clerk