

Borough of Hightstown
Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2019

Meeting Date and Time: December 17, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Hightstown Housing Authority Conference Room

Attendees: Keith LePrevost (Chair)
Todd Frantz (Secretary)
Donna LePrevost
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Leigh Isleib (Meadow Lakes Liaison)
Jennifer Morgan (Peddie School Liaison)
Lia Mastropolo (Watershed Institute)
Yan Troizier (Vice Chair)
Susan Bluth (Council Liaison)
Barbara Jones

Also in Attendance: Tom Musa (Borough Resident)
Dimitri (Councilman)

Absent: Gary Grubb

Open Public Meetings Act Statement: In compliance with Chapter 213 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of the Annual Notice published in the Trenton Times and Princeton Packet by the Borough Clerk and posted on the Borough website.

Approval of Agenda: David Zaiser motioned to approve the agenda as amended which was seconded by Donna LePrevost.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2019. Regarding the discussion in the minutes from November 19, 2019 on the street tree on the property of Mr. Rivera, it is clarified that Mr. Rivera can remove the tree at his own expense. EC does not agree the tree should be removed at the Borough's expense. David motioned to approve the minutes as amended which was seconded by Donna.

Shade Tree Matters:

- a. **Shade Tree Official's Report:** No recent tree work.
- b. **New Plantings and Tree Maintenance – Progress Report:** Growing Concern is close to planting the six new street trees and pruning approximately 75 existing trees. The new trees are purchased and ready to be planted; awaiting completion of utility mark out.
- c. **Lincoln/Hagemont/Rocky Brook – Trees Proposed:** Per Council Member Bluth, tree planting cannot be removed from the current project proposal despite the high cost of nearly \$1,000 per tree.

- d. **Modified Tree Ordinance:** David is planning to modify and provide a revised draft to the EC in January; plan to submit to Council for review in February.

Parks and Recreation: No update.

Borough Council Liaison – Lincoln/Hagemount/Rocky Brook project will be going out to bid at a date to be determined in the near future.

Planning Board Update: Planning Board will appoint a new liaison for the EC after January 1, 2020.

Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Update: Hightstown is certified through 2021. EC will further discuss if we reapply for certification in 2020 or 2021 during the January 2020 EC meeting.

Grants and Funding Update: NJ Urban and Community Forestry Program – no updates.

New Business:

- a. Food Waste Recycling Program in Hightstown Public Schools – Jennifer Morgan reports that we have the support from the students at Peddie. A date for a presentation to the School Board will be planned for first quarter 2020.
- b. Single Use Plastics Ban – EC will work with Peddie students to plan a date for a presentation to Borough Council in early 2020.
- c. Annual Report – Keith LePrevost will distribute a draft of the 2019 report for discussion at the January 2020 meeting.

Plan Review:

- a. Council has provided 78 pages of blueprints for the planned renovations to the former YMCA building where the new Borough Hall will be located. The blueprints contain only a couple items for EC to review. Keith will provide appropriate pages for EC members to review in January.
- b. Down and Dirty - Fill Dirt Ordinance – EC discussed the objective and requirements of the ordinance. In summary, this ordinance is not necessary/recommended for residential properties in the Borough of Hightstown.

Liaison Update:

- a. Meadow Lakes:
 - i. Working toward implementing the food waste recycling program in January 2020.
 - ii. Meadow Lakes has asked Hightstown EC to co-sponsor the Global Warming Panel on April 26, 2020 at Meadow Lakes. EC agrees to co-sponsor the panel.
 - iii. Repurposecompostables.com produces various types of compostable, biodegradable and sustainable products to replace single use plastic cups, plasticware, plates, etc.
- b. Peddie School: Earth Day activities planned for April 22, 2020; looking to work with EC and Meadow Lakes on volunteer opportunities from 12:30 to 3:30 on April 22, 2020.
- c. Watershed Institute:
 - i. The Watershed is working with NJDEP on approval of design for Rocky Brook Park project.

- ii. The Watershed's Science Department is planning to apply for a grant to study algae blooms in Peddie Lake.

Correspondents, Conferences and Workshops:

- a. Green Infrastructure training starts on January 17, 2020 at Duke Farms; let Keith know if you are interested.

Next Meeting: The next EC meeting will be the reorganization meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned.