

**Borough of Hightstown**  
**Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**November 19, 2019**

Meeting Date and Time: November 19, 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)

Also in Attendance: Sandra Johnson (Borough Resident)  
Tom Musa (Borough Resident)

Absent: Yan Troizier (Vice Chair)  
Gary Grubb  
Susan Bluth (Council Liaison)  
Barbara Jones

**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 October 22, 2019. Todd Frantz motioned to approve the minutes as amended which was seconded by Donna LePrevost.

**Shade Tree Matters:**

- a. **Shade Tree Official's Report:** No recent tree work.
- b. **New Plantings and Tree Maintenance – Bid Results:** David will reach out to Growing Concern to discuss liability concerns. If Growing Concern cannot perform work, pruning and planting will be performed by separate contractors.
- c. **Modified Tree Ordinance:** Comments received from Council were related to the impacts on home owners. David is recommending revising the ordinance to remove the permit fee for home owners and remove the requirement to replace the tree based on a sizing schedule; however, a free permit will still be required for homeowners and EC will provide a

recommendation for tree replacement. The permit fee and tree replacement requirements will remain for commercial properties.

- d. **Lincoln/Hagemont/Rocky Brook:** David met with the Roberts Engineering Project Manager to discuss piping that may affect London Plane tree roots and determined a solution to move the subsurface piping to the center of the street which will have limited impact on tree roots. EC recommends removing the tree planting from the scope of the general contractor and EC will plan to plant 30+ replacement trees as part of the project.
- e. **Frank Rivera:** Mr. Rivera (Borough resident) is asking the Borough to remove a Honey Locust street tree in front of his property because he claims it is lifting the sidewalk. David spoke with Mr. Rivera and agreed to discuss his concerns with the EC. EC does not agree the tree should be removed. Keith will send the recommendation from EC to the Borough administrator.

**Parks and Recreation:** No update.

**Planning Board Update:** Joe Cicialesse is no longer on the Planning Board; a new Planning Board liaison will be identified.

**Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Update:** No update

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

**New Business:**

- a. Food Waste Recycling Program in Hightstown Public Schools – In January 2020, Jennifer will identify Peddie School volunteers who will help EC advocate to the Hightstown School Board for the food waste program in public schools based on their own experience at Peddie.
- b. Single Use Plastics Ban – Peddie School would like to organize a presentation to the Borough Council on a single use plastics ban ordinance. Keith will coordinate this presentation for a Council meeting in January or February 2020.

**Plan Review:**

- a. 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. Organic Diversions food recycling program has been approved and they estimate it will save approximately \$6,000 per year.
  - ii. Global Warming Panel on April 26, 2020. Event will be held at Meadow Lakes.
  - iii. Meadow Lakes invited the Mayor of East Windsor to speak on environmental initiatives in East Windsor, date is TBD.
- b. Peddie School: No updates.
- c. Watershed Institute:

- i. Rocky Brook Park rain garden project grant cycle is ending in June. Infiltration testing has been completed. The Watershed is interested in removing some of the paving in the area, EC is in favor of this and will assist with discussing changes with Council.
- ii. The Watershed is having a Green Infrastructure Design and Maintenance seminar on Feb 6 and 7, 2020. The seminar targets engineers, landscape designers, contractors, etc.

**Correspondents, Conferences and Workshops:**

- a. Kevin Scibilia spoke on trees and tree roots on November 16. David will reach out to Kevin to explore the possibility of having Kevin lead a tree identification seminar in Rocky Brook Park in May or June 2020.
- b. Green Infrastructure training starts on 1/17/20 at Duke Farms

**Next Meeting:** The next regular EC meeting is Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 7:00 PM.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned.