

Borough of Hightstown
Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2019

Meeting Date and Time: September 24, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Hightstown Housing Authority Conference Room

Attendees: Keith LePrevost (Chair)
Yan Troizier (Vice Chair)
Todd Frantz (Secretary)
Donna LePrevost
Gary Grubb
Joe Cicalese (Planning Board Liaison)
Leigh Isleib (Meadow Lakes Liaison)
Susan Bluth (Council Liaison)
Barbara Jones
Jennifer Morgan (Peddie School Liaison)

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

Absent: David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Josh Jackson
Lia Mastropolo (Watershed Institute)

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: Donna LePrevost motioned to approve the agenda as amended which was seconded by Barbara Jones.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2019. Donna motioned to approve the minutes as amended which was seconded by Yan Troizier.

Shade Tree Matters:

- a. **Shade Tree Official's Report:** No update.
- b. **New Plantings and Tree Maintenance:** David and Yan developed plan for trimming of borough street trees. Bid format and planting specs developed by David and Yan for five different kinds of trees. Locations have yet to be defined pending budget. Council member Bluth looked into an escrow, we cannot set budget money aside in an escrow account but we can spend the money such as purchasing for a later delivery date without doing the work in the budget year.
- c. **Tree Tagging Project:** Council approved installing tree tags on trees in Association Park. Need volunteers to install tags on a weekend day.

Parks and Recreation:

- a. **Bridge update** – The bridge has been installed. Bridge installation including steps, sidewalks, etc will be finished in 4-6 weeks.

Borough Council Liaison:

- a. **Letter from Tree Commissioner:** David submitted a letter to JCP&L regarding the removal of Borough street trees. This will be added to a future Borough Council meeting agenda.
- b. **Revised Tree Ordinance:** Once the revised ordinance is ready, Debbie will add to the agenda.

Planning Board Update:

- a. Lincoln/Hagemont/Rocky Brook project – plans continue to be in preparation and under review by various entities in the borough.

Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Update:

- a. We are currently silver certified which lasts until 2021. Keith is starting to evaluate and review current documentation in preparation for the next submittal.

Grants and Funding Update:

- a. NJ Urban and Community Forestry Program – No updates on the award.

New Business:

- a. Food Waste Recycling Program – Program has been implemented at Peddie and is operating successfully. Based on success at Peddie, a goal for EC for 2020 would be to take Food Waste Recycling Program to Hightstown Schools. Peter Bussone is on the school board, Keith will reach out to Mr. Bussone and invite him to a future EC meeting to discuss the Food Waste Program. We may want to consider having Peddie students present the Food Waste recycling concept.

Plan Review:

- a. Peddie – Swig Art Center addition review. Plans will be available from Keith for review. Keith will prepare a write up on the review of the plan.
- b. American Center review – Todd will review storm water plan to evaluate methods or proposals to deal with new paving of lot.

Liaison Update:

- a. Meadow Lakes: Organic Conversions – Social Justice group at St. Anthony's and the Meadow Lakes environmental group is planning an Environmental Panel on the climate crisis in lieu of the Environmental Fair. The panel will be held during the evening on Sunday April 26, 2020. Jennifer will look for a Peddie student volunteer to participate on the panel.
- b. Peddie School: Beginning planning for Earth Day activities. Peddie has stopping using Styrofoam products and moving toward reusable containers for the students.
- c. Hightstown High School: No update.
- d. Watershed Institute: No update.

Correspondents, Conferences and Workshops:

- a. ANJEC Environmental Conference from 9 to 4 on Friday October 4 – Keith, Donna, Leigh and Gary will be attending, Joe will be tentatively attending.
- b. 94th Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference – October 24-25, 2019
- c. Academy Street Houses – Keith received an email from the Borough asking for EC review of paving for parking areas. Keith suggested that the plans be taken to the Planning Board.

Calendar:

- a. 10/12/19 – Harvest Fair
 - i. Theme – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Master Gardeners will have Home Composting as a theme.
 - ii. EC is registered to run the peddle boats at the Harvest Fair. Kenny will get the boats out of storage.

Next Meeting: The next regular EC meeting is Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned.