

Borough of Hightstown
Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2019

Meeting Date and Time: October 22, 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
Susan Bluth (Council Liaison)
Barbara Jones

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

Absent: Lia Mastropolo (Watershed Institute)
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Joe Cicalese (Planning Board Liaison)
Leigh Isleib (Meadow Lakes Liaison)
Jennifer Morgan (Peddie School Liaison)

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: Yan Troizier motioned to approve the agenda as amended which was seconded by Barbara Jones.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2019. Council Member Bluth noted that Josh Jackson is no longer a member of the Environmental Commission or Planning Board liaison for the Commission; Josh will be removed from future attendee list. Barbara Jones noted that David Zaiser, listed as “absent” on September 24, was present for a portion of the meeting. Todd Frantz motioned to approve the minutes as amended which was seconded by Barbara Jones.

Shade Tree Matters:

- a. **Shade Tree Official’s Report:** Mayor Quattrone is seeking compensation of 15 street trees from JCP&L to replace the trees that were cut down by JCP&L along South Main Street.
- b. **New Plantings and Tree Maintenance:** Bid results have been received for tree trimming and planting, bids are under review.

- c. **Modified Tree Ordinance:** David has reworked the ordinance which will be reintroduced to Borough Council later this year.
- d. **Tree Tagging Project:** Council approved installing tree tags on trees in Association Park during the regular Council meeting on September 16, 2019. Need volunteers to install tags on Saturday November 2.
- e. **Lincoln/Hagemont/Rocky Brook:** Project was discussed at the Borough Council meeting on October 21, 2019. Sidewalks are being eliminated from the project along Rocky Brook. There are currently only 7 replacement trees included in the project. Environmental Commission (EC) recommends approximately 32 trees be planted as part of this project at a rate of approximately one tree per lot. Keith will also request the location of a drainpipe be moved into the center of the street to prevent damage to roots of existing trees.

Parks and Recreation:

- a. **Bridge update** – Ribbon cutting ceremony will be on Monday October 28 at 6 PM.
- b. **Peddle boats** – Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks and Rec) does not want responsibility for the boats. Boats need repairs before they can be used again. Additionally, there are still outstanding issues related to storage, insurance, and Borough/EC liability. Gary Grubb and Council Member Bluth recommended representatives of Parks and Rec and EC meet to discuss the restoration, storage and use of the boats. Several possibilities exist to store the boats at a convenient location. Gary and Tom Musa will evaluate storage options before the next EC meeting. Council Member Bluth will discuss liability and insurance issues with the Borough Attorney.

Planning Board Update: No update

Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Update: No update

Grants and Funding Update: NJ Urban and Community Forestry Program – No updates on the award.

New Business: Food Waste Recycling Program – A goal for EC for 2020 would be to take Food Waste Recycling Program to Hightstown Schools. Discussions of plans to present a food waste recycling program to the school district are in progress.

Plan Review: No updates.

Liaison Update:

- a. Meadow Lakes: No updates.
- b. Peddie School: Collected 11 tons of food waste for recycling since the inception of the project in spring 2019. Peddie students have come up with a concept for a Plastic Free Hightstown Ordinance, it has been recommended the students take the plan to Council to gain support in 2020.
- c. Watershed Institute: No update.

Correspondents, Conferences and Workshops:

- a. ANJEC Environmental Conference on Friday October 4 – Keith, Donna, Leigh and Gary attended.

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- b. 94th Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference – October 24-25, 2019
- c. 10/29 Green Infrastructure Lecture – Borough of Allentown – 5 going so far
- d. Green Infrastructure training starts on 1/17/20 at Duke Farms

Next Meeting: The next regular EC meeting is Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned.