

**Borough of Hightstown
Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes**

February 18th , 2020

Meeting Date and Time: January 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Hightstown Housing Authority Conference Room

Attendees: Keith LePrevost (Chair)
Donna LePrevost
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Jennifer Morgan (Peddie School Liaison)
Yan Troizier (Vice Chair)
Barbara Jones
Gary Grubb
Tom Musa
John Ladenburg (Planning Board)

Also in Attendance: Sandra Johnson (Borough Resident)
Lia Mastropolo (Watershed Institute)
Leigh Isleib (Meadow Lakes Liaison)
Meredith Salmon (teacher)
Dennis Zhang
Richard Zhu
Neha Sathishkumar
Emily Robertson
Tina ..(Highland Park)

Absent: Susan Bluth, Council

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 January 14th, 2020. David motioned to approve the minutes which was seconded by Donna.

Peddie School Presentation:

PEST Hightstown Plastic Bag Reductions

I. Objectives

End Goal: reduce plastic waste via a Hightstown

plastic bag reduction ordinance Steps:

A.inform you of our interest and commitment

B.receive feedback on our process

C.ask for your support

2. Reasons & Considerations

3. State Precedent

- A. Statewide reductions in the U.S.
- B. New Jersey

4. Local Precedent - Countywide reductions in N.J and Rationale for local case study selections

- A. Lambertville
- B. Hopewell
- C. Highland Park

5. Local Business Feedback

6. Our Next Steps

7. Objectives and Questions- (Revisited)

- A. How can we bridge the gap between our research and the creation of local legislation? Will we need to apply for a Sustainable Jersey grant (like Lambertville)?
 - B. Do you have any recommendations regarding our student-led committees?
 - C. Do you have any advice on/available resources to survey more effectively?
 - D. Where we can access more on data related to plastic bags and how they specifically affect Hightstown?
 - E. Do you have any additional comments before we present to the mayor, other officials, etc.
- The Peddie School did an excellent presentation on what they are doing in Hightstown as well as this new initiative, Eliminating single use plastics in Hightstown. Each student and their teacher gave an excellent overview of the basic steps involved in banning single use plastics. They have interviewed several local businesses and have a generally favorable response from them all. They are looking forward to surveying our residents and bringing this information to the council. They addressed all the areas, local communities such as Highland Park, Hopewell twp. and Lambertville as well as the actions that are currently being taken by the state. At least 32 local areas have passed local ordinances, they are hoping Hightstown will become one of them. Some towns have received Sustainable Jersey Grants to purchase reusable bags and provide education for all residents. Each town's process was detailed by the Students. All of which used mostly volunteer labor with town support for the ordinance and enforcement. Options were discussed including surveys, temporary charges for plastic or paper bags with eventual removal of fees.

Shade Tree Matters:

a. Shade Tree Official's Report:

- i. Received \$7,000 grant from NJDEP, must be matched by the EC which will require approximately \$3,000 in costs for trees with the balance of the matching costs in labor. This will fund planting of approximately 20 new trees in the Borough.

- ii. Lincoln/Hagemount. David will reach out to Carmela to get a

Parks and Recreation: No update currently.

Grants and Funding Update:

- a. ANJEC Grant – work in Rocky Brook Park which has been funded by the grant has not yet been completed; plan is to finish work funded by the grant in 2020 by identifying and tagging plants in Rocky Brook Park. Hopefully we can schedule Gary Grubb to help identify the weeds and Kevin Scibilia will do the trees. We are looking at June of this year.
- b. Stony Brook Millstone Watershed “Green Infrastructure” grant. The watershed is dedicating approximately \$35,000 to Rocky Brook Park for stormwater and wetlands work. Final plans have been submitted to NJDEP and are awaiting approval.

New Business:

Plan Review:

- a. No update at this time.

Liaison Update:

- a. Meadow Lakes: Meadow Lakes will be initiating food waste recycling program by March 2020
- b. Peddie School- Single Use Plastics
- c. Watershed Institute: No updates
- d. Hightstown High School: No updates

Correspondents, Conferences and Workshops:

- a. 3/14/2020 – Mercer Green Fest – Rider College
 - i. Come up with theme – Water quality and resources
 - ii. Make up displays
- b. 4/22/2020 – Climate Change Panel – Meadow Lakes
- c. 4/25/2020 – Arbor Day Stream Cleanup and Shredding Event
 - i. Coordinate with The Watershed
 - ii. Coordinate with Peddie and HHS
 - iii. Schedule Shredding Truck from 9-11 am
 - iv. Advertise
- d. 10/10/2020 – Harvest Fair
 - i. Potential Theme of Water Quality and Conservation
 - ii. Do we “Green the Harvest Fair” in 2020?

Next Meeting: The next EC meeting will be on March 25th, 2020, 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned.