

Borough of Hightstown
Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2020

Meeting Date and Time: July 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Conference Call

Attendees: Keith LePrevost (Chair)
Todd Frantz (Secretary)
Donna LePrevost
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Yan Troizier (Vice Chair)
Susan Bluth (Council Liaison)
Barbara Jones
Tom Musa

Also in Attendance: None

Absent: Jennifer Morgan (Peddie School Liaison)
Gary Grubb
Lia Mastropolo (Watershed Institute)
Leigh Isleib (Meadow Lakes 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: Donna LePrevost motioned to approve the agenda as amended which was seconded by David Zaiser.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2020. David motioned to approve the minutes as amended which was seconded by Barbara Jones.

February 18, 2020 meeting notes amendment in italics below:

Shade Tree Matters: Section a.ii - "David was planning to reach out to Carmela to get *an update.*"

Shade Tree Matters:

- a. **Shade Tree Official's Report:** Borough street trees were removed or are planned for removal at 303 Summit, 305 Lincoln, 303 Lincoln, 124 Main Street, Ward Street adjacent to parking lot of Hightstown Diner, North Main at Historical Society, 5 trees in drainage area adjacent to Rocky Brook. Pruning of Borough street trees has been completed at 314 and 326 Lincoln and 126 Morrison.

- b. Lincoln/Hagemont/Rocky Brook update: Tree locations and species, including Tulip, Kentucky Coffee, Japanese Snowball Elm, and Green Hawthorne trees, have been selected.
- c. Councilmember Bluth informed EC that the Borough does not have a budget for 2020 therefore EC cannot determine exactly how many Borough street trees can be pruned this year. Once a budget is established, EC can determine which street trees can be pruned.
- d. Received grant from NJDEP, must be matched by the Borough. David met with the Deputy State Forester in early March 2020 and was able to secure \$14,000 in grant money. The State Forester has been out of the office for several months due to the pandemic which delayed the issuance of the grant. David has been continuing to work with the Borough, County and State to inventory trees and identify planting locations and prepare a plan to be submitted to the State. David will try to move the project along to have the plantings completed this fall but it will depend on state approval.

Parks and Recreation: Keith LePrevost spoke to Gary Grubb earlier today, an Eagle Scout would like to work with Parks and Rec to develop a walking path in Rocky Brook Park. Parks and Rec is planning outdoor yoga sessions in Borough parks this fall.

Planning Board Update: No update

Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Update: No update

Grants and Funding Update:

- a. ANJEC Grant – No in-person meetings permitted this year so we will postpone the tree seminar with Kevin Scibilia until 2021.
- b. The Watershed – Newly planted pollinator and rain gardens planted by the Watershed/Rutgers are doing well. EC members are doing an excellent job keeping new gardens watered.

New Business:

- a. Single Use Plastics – The Borough has delayed this initiative for now. EC will attempt to get on the agenda for a Borough Council meeting when in person meetings resume. Keith will keep Jennifer and Shani from Peddie School up to date.
- b. School Board – Food Waste - EC was on the calendar for a School Board meeting; however, the meetings were cancelled due to the pandemic. Keith will try to reschedule later this year when in-person meetings resume.

Plan Review: EC is no longer receiving plans to review from the Borough. Councilmember Bluth recommended Keith reach out to the Borough Building Inspector and Planning Board to request to review plans.

Liaison Update:

- a. Meadow Lakes: no updates
- b. Peddie School: no updates
- c. Watershed Institute: no updates
- d. Hightstown High School: no updates

Correspondents, Conferences and Workshops: No updates

Calendar: All Borough events have been cancelled for the remainder of the year.

Next Meeting: The next EC meeting will be on August 25, 2020, 7:00 PM. The Housing Authority Conference Room has been approved by the health inspector for meetings of up to 12 people. The August meeting will tentatively be held in the Housing Authority Conference Room for EC members only with a conference phone line for the liaisons and members of the public.

Adjournment: Donna motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by Barbara.