

**Borough of Hightstown**  
**Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes**

**September 22, 2020**

Meeting Date and Time: September 22, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Hightstown Housing Authority Conference Room for Commissioners and Councilmembers; Conference Call-in for the public and Commission Liaisons

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

Conference Call Attendees: None

Absent: Jennifer Morgan (Peddie School Liaison)  
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:** David Zaiser motioned to approve the agenda as amended which was seconded by Gary Grubb.

**Approval of Minutes:** Regular Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2020. David motioned to approve the minutes which was seconded by Donna LePrevost.

**Shade Tree Matters:**

1. Shade Tree Official's Report:
  - a. Davey, a tree pruning company, is working in the Borough pruning trees near power lines for JCP&L. David has received several complaints from residents regarding the poor condition of trees pruned by Davey. David contacted Davey and required them reprune several trees following the regulatory guidance for best practices for pruning. David will be inspecting all street trees pruned by Davey.
  - b. Removal of a street tree was required at 138 South St due to storm damage.

2. Lincoln/Hagemont/Rocky Brook update: Construction portion of project is moving along but tree planting will likely not occur in 2020. Planting will likely take place in spring 2021. Council Member Bluth will look into whether or not the contractor will be responsible for maintenance of the new trees for a year which is typical for trees planted by contractors.
3. DEP Grant Update: David has connected with Mercer Co. DOT to coordinate planting of trees along County roads as part of the grant. For the grant, the Borough must maintain the trees for 2 years, Davis is working with the County to work out the pruning/maintenance of the trees.
4. David will be doing a tree presentation to the Garden Club as part of the Environmental Commission's (EC) outreach program.

**Parks and Recreation:**

1. Pollinator Garden is doing well and was recently weeded by The Watershed.
2. Borough Budget includes \$31,000 for Parks and Rec/EC to repair portions of the Greenway trail and the purchase of new pedal boats. Budget is set for approval during a Council meeting on Monday Sept 28.

**Planning Board Update:** Mill Project was unanimously approved by Planning Board. The plan now goes back to Borough Council to prepare an agreement with the developer.

**Grants and Funding:** Newly planted gardens in Rocky Brook Park, installed by The Watershed as part of a grant from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, continue to do well with the watering of the gardens by EC members. The new gardens are continuing to be healthy throughout the summer.

**New Business:** Barbara Jones, as a citizen of the Borough of Hightstown, sent an email to East Windsor Mayor Mironov in mid-September making a request to start discussion about a single use plastics ban initiative throughout the Hightstown/East Windsor communities. Barbara has not received a response to date.

**Plan Review:** None.

**Liaison Update:**

- a. Meadow Lakes: no updates
- b. Peddie School: Peddie food waste recycling is still going well for the second year of implementation.
- c. Watershed Institute: no updates
- d. Hightstown High School: no updates

**Correspondents, Conferences and Workshops:** No updates

**Calendar:** On October 10, 2020, Kevin Scibilia will be leading a tree identification seminar in Rocky Brook Park from 9-11 AM. Council Member Bluth suggested that EC request permission from Jim Sidelinger, Office of Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough, to conduct the training. Yan Troizier will talk to Jim to discuss. This will count toward the CEUs for EC.

**Next Meeting:** The next EC meeting will be on October 27, 2020, 7:00 PM.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned.