

## MINUTES FOR THE RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING OF

### THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Meeting Date and Time:** February 28, 2023 at 7pm

**Meeting Location:** Held virtually through Zoom

**Attendees:** Todd Frantz (Council Liaison)  
Tom Muza (Chair)  
Gary Grubb  
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)  
John Laudenburger (Planning Board Liaison)  
Shani Peretz (Peddie School Liaison)  
Henry Wang (Secretary)

**Absent:**

Joseph Studholme (Vice Chair)  
Lucia Middleton (Watershed Institute)

**Open Public Meeting 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:** Agenda was approved

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Regular meeting minutes from January 10, 2023 were approved.

**Shade Tree Matters:** David provided an updated report. He indicated that some trees on Main St. at Stockton had outgrown the grates, and that public works offered to plant two new trees. CFMP Annual Progress report was submitted to the state and approved, as well as re-certification for Tree City USA.

**New Business:**

- a. Youth Leadership Internship Update: 18-20 people have submitted applications. Goal is for a group comprising of approximately 50/50 split between Peddie/Rise + High School. Application deadline is this coming week. The Watershed will meet with EC and develop a protocol on how to pick the 10 interns. First meeting is March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Watershed Institute Conference Update: Tom attended the conference on storm water management.
- c. Monthly Meeting Schedule discussion (Zoom/In person /Hybrid): EC is able to use the firehouse for in person meetings at no charge. But Tuesdays and Mondays are booked. Wednesdays are free. Tom will send out a survey checking members for availability.
- d. Possibility of sponsoring a food truck event at Old Hights Brewing Company in coordination with the stream cleanup and arbor day tree planting. Todd spoke with the Brewery, but this will require further planning and coordination by EC.
- e. Complete Streets Committee – Mobility Plan Implementation (recurring item on agenda). Updates from the most recent meeting include proposed improvements to roadway at Maxwell (roundabout/3 way stop) and Orchard (water and re-surfacing, no sidewalks). They also agreed to pursue a grant for a transportation study for the ultimate goal or re-routing truck traffic from the borough.
- f. Sustainable Jersey: Tom to review.

**Parks and Recreation:** no updates.

**Planning Board Update:** There was discussion on sidewalks on Orchard Ave. as well as the redevelopment plan downtown with the bank.

**Grants and Funding Update:**

- a. Rocky Brook Park: grant application to be submitted at a later date.

**Plan Review:**

- a. 169 Mechanic St.: proposed replacement of a Shed with a Garage. Difficult to see on the map where the garage would go, and the copy of the plan Tom received was difficult to read. Tom emailed George to get more information.

**Liaison updates:**

- a. The Watershed Institute – not present
- b. Meadow Lakes – not present
- c. Peddie School – No update
- d. Hightstown High School – not present

**Correspondence:** No Correspondence

**Conferences and Workshops:** no updates

**Calendar:**

- a. Tuesday March 28, 2023: First Session of the Youth Leadership Internship
- b. Saturday April 22, 2023: Stream Clean Up
- c. Tuesday May 16, 2023: Youth Leadership Presentation (potentially firehouse but there would be a fee. Need further engagement with firehouse).

**Updates from Todd (Council)**

- d. October 7, 2023: date of Harvest Fair. Rain date is scheduled for Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- e. Budget: Tom will submit EC budget to Dimitri. Borough wants to get budget approved by April.
- f. Road improvements: Maxwell Street and Ward. Going to be a 3 way stop. The borough is also getting grants for improvements.
- g. Dimitri and Carmela are starting to work on MS-4 requirements.
- h. Past council meeting there was a hearing on the flood damage prevention ordinance (state DEP). The Borough adopted a 2 ft increase to FEMA flood zone elevation.

**Adjournment**