

MINUTES FOR THE RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING OF

THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Date and Time: January 10, 2023 at 7pm

Meeting Location: Held virtually through Zoom

Attendees: Todd Frantz (New Council Liaison)
Tom Muza (Incoming Chair)
Gary Grubb
Joseph Studholme (New Vice Chair)
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Lucia Middleton (Watershed Institute)
John Laudenburger (Planning Board Liaison)
Shani Peretz (Peddie School Liaison)
Henry Wang (New Member, New Secretary)

Absent:

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 November 22, 2022 were approved.

Swearing in of new members: Henry Wang was sworn in as an EC member

Election of New Officers: Tom Muza accepted the duties of Chair

Joseph Studholme accepted the duties of Vice-Chair

Henry Wang accepted the duties of Secretary

Shade Tree Matters: See attached report by David Zaiser

New Business:

- 2023 ANJEC dues were paid
- Stream Cleanup date was set for April 22, 2023
Earth Day is April 22, 2023, Arbor Day is April 28, 2023
Tom will reach out to the Watershed for their guidance.
- The EC will again, for the 2nd year sponsor The Hightstown Environmental Leadership Internship
 - With participation from The Watershed, Peddie School, Rise and Hightstown High
 - EC's budget is \$200 stipend for 8 students
 - 9 sessions, from March 28, 2023 – May 22, 2023
 - A subcommittee will be formed to coordinate the program
Lucia, Shani, Todd and Tom will initially will meet in the next 2 weeks
Rise and Hightstown High will be contacted to join the subcommittee
Once a date/time is set, Tom invite other interested members to join
- Complete Streets Committee – Mobility Plan Implementation (recurring item on agenda)
- Sustainable Jersey: Recertification has been extended to December 2023. Recertification schedule for 2023 begins February and continue through May 2023. We need to submit additional information for recertification by May 2023.

Parks and Recreation: Gary reported that Christine Fowler approached him about a possible grant for Rock Brook Park and getting some updates to the community garden and the park grounds. Ann Marie Miller, from the Hightstown Arts Council discussed ideas with Gary. Tom will reach out to Ann Marie for specifics.

Planning Board Update: John reported that the Planning Board that the Planning Board had their re-organization. He added that there was a buyer for the Bank on the lake, but no detailed design concepts were given. There was discussion on keeping a buffer for the Wood Turtles (on the endangered species list) of 150 ft. as part of the design.

Grants and Funding Update: No updates

Plan Review: No plans to review

Liaison updates:

- The Watershed Institute – Lucia announced the Watershed’s Annual Conference on February 10, 2023. She would also discuss the leadership Internship with her Watershed team
- Meadow Lakes – No updates
- Peddie School – No update
- Hightstown High School – No update

Correspondence:

- No Correspondence

Conferences and Workshops: 6th Annual Watershed Conference on February 10, 2023

Calendar: 2023 meeting dates were set for the year. Next Meeting is Tuesday, February 28th.
Todd and Tom will work on securing a “In Person” meeting location

Adjournment