

MINUTES FOR THE RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING OF

THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Date and Time: August 22, 2023 at 7pm

Meeting Location: Held in person at the Hightstown Historical Society

Attendees: Todd Frantz (Council Liaison)
Tom Muza (Chair)
Gary Grubb
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Henry Wang (Secretary)
Joseph Studholme (Vice Chair)
Michael Bollentin
Matt Morgan (Planning Board)

Absent: Lucia Middleton (Watershed Institute)
Shani Peretz (Peddie School Liaison)

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 July 25, 2023 were approved.

Shade Tree Matters:

- David provided an update, which was distributed in the Shade Tree Official's report prior to the meeting on August 20, 2023.
- There was a discussion on the Stockton Street construction (road and sidewalks between 130 and Dutch Neck Rd.). the new plan does not include new street trees. If we want trees on the Hightstown side we would need to obtain county approval.

New Business:

- Sustainable Jersey (recurring item on the agenda): Michael and Tom spoke with a contact Samantha there and obtained an extension to submit (end of 2023).

Complete Streets Committee Update: Mobility Plan Implementation (recurring item on agenda). Last meeting was a discussion of the Master Plan, and next meeting that will likely continue.

Parks and Recreation Update:

- There was a meeting at Rocky Brook regarding construction of the structure in the park. The goal is to make it into an open air pavilion.
- Roger Cook Greenway: Michael will do a walk through to get some ideas for improvements or repairs.

Planning Board Update:

- Matt Morgan was present to discuss the Master Plan. This is a 10 year re-examination report. It's a vision document and is not binding. It serves as a legal foundation for decisions. Matt

reviewed the portions pertaining to EC. The Planning Board is looking for comments on the document, as well as provide some feedback on what is missing. We can send our comments to Matt and he will bring it up to the board. Soft deadline is end of the year 2023. Matt has put together a condensed document and put it in a Google doc. The second part of our action items is a survey, which can be completed as a group.

- David will also distribute Environmental Resource Inventory document from 2012.
- There was discussion to put items in the master plan to provide basis for grants and funding, e.g. net zero goals.

Grants and Funding Update: N/A

Plan Review: No reviews this month.

Liaison updates:

- The Watershed Institute – none
- Meadow Lakes – none
- Peddie School – none
- Hightstown High School – none

Correspondence: No Correspondence

Conferences and Workshops: no updates

Calendar: no updates

Update from Council (Todd):

- There was a first reading of an ordinance regarding privately owned salt storage facilities. Origin of this is the DEP.
- New stormwater control ordinance: DEP is saying municipalities need to adopt this, but there are some updates such as changes in how you calculate runoff. These will be heard on next council meeting, Sept. 5th.
- Peddie Lake dam: sluice gate broke and was not able to be opened. They fixed it but will be good for 10 years. The gate need to be replaced eventually.

Adjournment