MINUTES FOR THE RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING OF

THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Date and Time: September 26, 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)
Michael Bollentin

Absent:
Joseph Studholme (Vice Chair)
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 August 22, 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 Monday, September 25, 2023. Of note, three (3) trees on North and South Main still need to be replaced.

New Business:

- Sustainable Jersey (recurring item on the agenda): Michael and Lucia had a discussion on this project, in concert with the Youth Leadership Council (YLC). The idea is that Sustainable Jersey can be part of the YLC internship. Four separate themes/ideas were presented: (1) flooding risk, (2) forestry management, (3) green infrastructure, and (4) Hightstown Water Story. The commission members noted that all of these were great ideas. The internship will likely start earlier next year (mid January 2024 to early March 2024). Michael will coordinate with Lucia further and provide updates later.
- Hightstown Harvest Festival (Saturday October 7th, 2023): the EC has space for this event. Members discussed setting up, taking down and having someone present at the table. We will be able to have a table, tent/canopy, some oak trees to give away and a form for people to fill out if they are interested in volunteering with the EC.

Complete Streets Committee Update: Mobility Plan Implementation (recurring item on agenda).

- Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 27, 2023.
- Master Plan: continued discussion (recurring item)
- Vision Zero: continued discussion (recurring item)
- A flashing beacon on Franklin and Broad that was installed by the State. Will be a topic of discussion.

Parks and Recreation Update:

- Rocky Brook Park: it was decided to fix the structure at and keep it as an open air pavilion.
- Roger Cook Greenway: there was a discussion about overall condition of the Greenway, and which areas need work. There will be more due diligence and at some point the Commission will decide where to allocate funding for repair.

Planning Board Update: none

Grants and Funding Update:

- Capital budget has been approved. There are funds for the Greenway, and as noted above the Commission needs to determine where to allocate funds for repair or improvement.

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:

- Gary will attend ANJEC (The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) 50th annual conference on October 13, 2023

Calendar: no updates

Update from Council (Todd): see Grants and Funding Update above.

Adjournment