

MINUTES FOR THE RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING OF
THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Date and Time: October 24, 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)
Michael Bollentin
Joseph Studholme (Vice Chair)
Lucia Middleton (Watershed Institute)
Alexa Gamberg

Absent: Henry Wang (Secretary)
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 September 26, 2023 were approved.

Shade Tree Matters:

- Beech in Association Park that was split in a storm cannot be saved and needs to be removed.
- David continues to reach out to Brightview to have dead trees replaced.
- We are obtaining bids for new tree planting
- The Aughenbaugh Family will donate \$1,000 for the planting of a tree in memory of Richard Aughenbaugh who passed away. The family would like an evergreen planted in Memorial Park and used as the annual "Xmas" Tree. David is thinking of a Spruce.
- David will obtain the EC's approved budget and review and determine how many trees we can plant this season.

New Business:

- Youth Leadership Internship:
 - Lucia updated the Commission on all the work she has done.
 - 10 evening sessions starting January 15th. Main focus will be Hightstown's Water Story.
 - Lucia has Roosevelt and Woodbridge's "Water Story."
 - A representative from Roosevelt's EC volunteered to talk to the students.
 - In addition to working on the Hightstown Water Story, there will be presentations about the EC, climate change, understanding borough government and understanding trees

and their role in the environment by David. The Commission Members are invited to attend.

- Discussion of Hightstown Master Plan:
 - Talking points
 - Goals and guiding principles
 - Stormwater mitigation
 - Environmental resource inventory
 - Storm water management
 - NJ energy conservation code
 - Start a Google Doc for the Master Plan (Michael will handle).
- Hightstown Harvest Fair:
 - Booth was staffed with multiple EC members throughout the day and were able to engage with a variety of residents.
 - Free oak trees were distributed.

Complete Streets Committee Update: no update.

Parks and Recreation Update: no update

Planning Board Update: no update

Grants and Funding Update:

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:

Calendar: no updates

Update from Council (Todd): no updates

Adjournment