



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes
For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

* The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Nora Sirbaugh, Ray Nichols, Jim Gambino, Andrew Plunkett, Rex Parker, and Bill Washburn

Members absent: Mike Aucott, Vanessa Sandom, George Kerr

Also present: Mark Kataryniak – Twp Administrative Officer, Michael Ruger-Twp Committee Liaison

Members of the Public present: Kim Haren, Fairfax Hunter

Reorganization

Nora was nominated for Chairperson by Ray, 2nded by Rex, and elected unanimously.

Ray was nominated for Vice-Chairperson by Jim, 2nded by Nora, and elected unanimously.

Jim was nominated for Secretary by Rex, 2nded by Ray, and elected unanimously.

Note: Michael Ruger will be the Twp Committee liaison to the EC.

Minutes for Approval

The December 18, 2018 draft minutes were not available

Action: Jim will produce them for our next meeting.

2019 Goals – we discussed potential goals listed below:

1. Scotch Rd Monitoring Well – continue Twp funding of data collection, review data twice per year (Feb & Sept), report to Twp Committee & Health Dept.
2. Tree Regeneration Work – various projects
3. Respectful Language and Courtesy – among members and public
4. Shade Tree Ordinance & Native Plant List – adoption by Twp
5. Evaluation & Review of Stormwater Ordinances – consider more stringent one
6. Single-use Plastics Ordinance – consider advancing
7. Public Education (Outreach) / Communication with Twp Groups – various means (news articles, presentations, community events, Twp website & TV channel slides, videos)

2019 Draft EC Budget – we reviewed a handout from Mark of this year's proposed budget items and their estimated costs. The draft includes 4 major items:

1. Professional Services (Tree Planting/Maintenance) - \$1500
2. Office Supplies - \$200
3. Dues/Training/Meetings - \$1000
4. Water monitoring - \$3500

Total Budget = \$6,200

Members agreed with all items and have no additions.

Action: Mark will forward our proposed budget to the Twp Committee for approval.

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

A. Twp Committee Liaison Report

Michael commented on our character and dedication, and looks forward to working with us again this year.

B. Chestnut Tree Planting Project

Mike A. e-mailed Nora that he has obtained replacement seeds through the American Chestnut Foundation in order to replant the 111 unsuccessful spots at the Hollytstone / Fiddler's Creek planting site this spring. He also has butternut seeds which he could start growing.

C. Drainage Basin Meadow Conversion

Mark reported that the informational sign for the municipal complex basin is ready to be installed. Nora asked what types of seeds were planted in the basin.

Action: Rex will obtain the list of plants from FoHVOS.

D. Water Monitoring

We plan to review the Scotch Rd Monitoring Well data next month.

Action: Members should print out the hydrograph for review. Click web link below.

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nj/nwis/dv/?site_no=401934074485901&agency_cd=USGS&refered_module=gw

E. Single-Use Plastic Bans

Kim Haren of the Pennington Environmental Commission joined our discussion of this issue. We noted that Hopewell Borough has recently passed a ban on plastic bags, and that several related Bills are currently being discussed in State Senate/Assembly Committees – they include S2776 and A4330.

Actions: Members are asked to read through these bills for our discussion next month.

We will prepare a draft Resolution for the Twp Committee to consider supporting.

Members are also asked to think about Public Education on this issue for our residents and businesses.

F. Revenue-Neutral Carbon Fee Bill

No update.

Action: Members are asked to contact our local representative, Bonnie Watson-Coleman, and ask that she support this important Bill, HR 7173.

G. Arboretum in Woolsey Park

Our subcommittee members are Rex, Andrew and Jim.

Action: continue work on this project.

New Business

A. Woody Plant Ordinance

Mark provided copies of an updated draft ordinance and the previous update we prepared. He explained why he reworked the draft to be included in the design standard section of the Twp. code.

Actions: Members are asked to review these documents and send comments to Nora and Mark for a discussion next month.

Once approved by the EC, the draft will go to Michael for public notice at a future Twp Committee meeting, approval by the Planning Board and final adoption at a public hearing of the Twp. Committee.

B. Green Infrastructure Training

We received e-mail notice of the subject free classes provided by Rutgers. Mark agreed it would be beneficial for some EC members to attend.

Action: Interested members should consider attending.

C. Sustainable Jersey Grants

We do not intend to apply for a grant at this time.

Announcements & Correspondence

1. **2019 NJ Tree Giveaway** - Mark informed us that NJDEP has approved our application to participate in the state's 2019 Tree Recovery (Giveaway) Campaign. We will be distributing the seedling trees to our community residents on Saturday, April 6 from 9:30 to Noon. Jim volunteered to be point person.

Actions: EC members are asked to "Save the Date" and help at this event.

Public Relations – we will send out the suggested news article/press release prior to this event. This event will also be announced at future Twp. Committee meetings.

2. **ANJEC EC Training Sessions** - We received e-mail notice of the subject sessions.

Action: Andrew is planning to attend one of the sessions.

Public Comment

Fairfax Hunter discussed her concerns regarding deer and trails on some Mercer County properties. We discussed some of the local deer management programs in the township.

- * The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm: Motion – Ray, 2nd Bill; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary