



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, February 19, 2019

* The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Jim Gambino, Bill Washburn, Andrew Plunkett, George Kerr, Ray Nichols, Mike Aucott, Vanessa Sandom and Nora Sirbaugh.

Members absent: Rex Parker

Also present: Cheryl Bergailo - Twp Administrative Officer

Members of the Public present: Lia Mastropolo, James Duffy

Minutes for Approval

The December 18, 2018 draft minutes were approved with no changes – Motion, Ray; 2nd Mike; Abstain – Bill

Action: Jim will forward these minutes to Mark Kataryniak for posting on the Township website.

Note: the January 15, 2019 minutes will be discussed at our next meeting.

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

A. Woody Plant Ordinance

Members discussed the revised draft prepared by Mark Kataryniak and have many concerns. We need to have consistent wording in this draft and the Township's Tree Protection Ordinance.

Action: We will work with Cheryl to improve the draft

B. Chestnut Tree Planting Project

We are planning to replant the Hollystone/Fiddler's Creek site with new seeds in early April. Mike will be presenting this topic at the NJ Conservation Foundation Land Rally on April 12.

Action: Mike will send his presentation to Vanessa to post on the HaveyoursayHopewell web site.

C. Water Monitoring

We reviewed the Scotch Rd Monitoring Well data, noting two unusual summer month recharge periods in 2018. There is also an unusual downward spike in early November 2018. This may be due to USGS servicing the equipment.

Action: Mike will contact USGS to learn about the November data anomaly.

D. Single-Use Plastic Bans (note this item was not on our agenda)

Several related Bills are currently being discussed in State Senate/Assembly Committees – they include S2776 and A4330.

Actions: Ray will forward web links to these Bills to Nora for distribution to all members.

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

We may 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.

E. Revenue-Neutral Carbon Fee Bill

Mike reported the Bill will be discussed in three different committees.

Action: Mike will forward us the web link for this Bill, and create a draft Resolution for us to consider sending to the Twp Committee to consider supporting.

Members are asked to read through the Bill and Resolution for our discussion next month.

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

F. Arboretum in Woolsey Park

Our subcommittee members are Rex, Andrew, Jim and Mike

Action: continue work on this project.

New Business

A. Planning for Arbor Day Events

Consider it Arbor Month. While we do not have a particular event planned for this year's Arbor Day, April 26, we are planning tree related activities during April including:

April 6 – Tree Seedling Giveaway

Early April – Chestnut Replanting @ Hollystone/Fiddlers Creek site.

Actions: alert the Twp Committee of our planned work, in order to prepare and announce our annual Arbor Day Proclamation to the public.

Install our Tree City USA sign.

B. Green Amendment (note this item was not on our agenda, but was approved at the start of our meeting)

NJ is considering adding a “green amendment” to our state constitution following a ballot vote this November. The current Assembly Bill Number is ACR85. Some towns' governing bodies have sent Resolutions in support of this issue. Ray provided us with related postcards prepared by the Delaware RiverKeeper Network for mail-in support of this issue

Action: Ray will forward related information to Nora for distribution to all members.

Announcements & Correspondence

- A. **News scientist.com article on threats to insects** – self explanatory. Mike also shared with us information he had published regarding the possible related adverse effects of increased CO2 levels on the plant-insect relationship as changes in plant nutrients are occurring.
- B. **Bald Eagle nest** - (note this item also was not on our agenda, but was approved at the start of our meeting)

Ray shared copies of the recent Rare Wildlife Sighting Report Form sent by a local resident to the NJ Fish & Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program.

- * The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm: Motion – Ray, 2nd Bill; all in favor.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary