



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes
For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, February 20, 2018

* The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Jim Gambino, Rex Parker, Bill Washburn, Nora Sirbaugh,
and Mike Aucott (7:25 +/-)

Members absent: George Kerr, Ray Nichols, Vanessa Sandom, Tim Wilson

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

Members of the Public present: Harvey Lester, Andrew Plunkett

Minutes for Approval

The January 23, 2018 draft minutes were approved – Motion Rex, 2nd Bill

Actions: Jim will forward these minutes to Mark for posting on the Twp website.

Zoning Board Application Reviews

- A. Case No 2018-03: **Ruth Melk;**
211 Blackwell Road; Block 44, Lot 20; VRC District
Proposed Second Residence on Property
Use Variance w/ Bulk Variances

We reviewed and discussed the application together with Mark.

We understand the allowable impervious lot coverage area for this property is 10%.

The existing lot coverage is 13.4 % and the proposed project would increase the lot coverage to 15.3%.

Exceeding the lot coverage area has detrimental effects to our local environment.

We believe this project will also have detrimental effects on the surrounding parkland area.

For the above reasons we recommend denying this application.

- B. Case No 2018-04: **Hopewell Special, LLC;**
85 Stony Brook Road; Block 5, Lot 34; MRC District
Proposed Deck Addition
Hardship/Bulk Variance

We reviewed and discussed the application together with Mark.

We have no environmental concerns for the proposed project.

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

A. Tree City USA

Mark submitted our updated application to NJDEP for approval.

B. Leaf Compost

Bill contacted Ewing and Lawrence Twp's for the availability of leaf compost and the possibility of a shared services agreement with Hopewell Twp. Jim contacted Hamilton Twp to inquire about the same.

Ewing does not produce leaf compost for sale. Lawrence will not accept leaves but will sell compost for \$11/cy for pickup.

Hamilton will only sell leaf compost to their residents (\$10/cy) or any municipality that has a shared services agreement with them.

Actions: Bill will contact Lawrence to obtain details for hours of operation.

Nora will prepare a press release to residents for HV News, Mercer Me, Twp. web site, etc. and include a survey on the haveyoursayhopewell site related to leaf compost availability. EC members will review the draft.

Mike R. will ask Mark to provide costs to operate a small compost distribution site in the Twp.

C. Chestnut Tree Planting Project

This will be our Arbor Day event. Instead of planting a single tree, the goal is to help reforest Hopewell Twp following the ongoing devastation and loss of trees being caused by the Ash Borer. All members are in favor of the project.

Mike reviewed details of the project which include planting seeds and seedlings of pure American Chestnuts from survivor trees and blight-resistant hybrids, which he can obtain from The American Chestnut Foundation. Proposed planting sites include Woolsey Park (ceremonial planting for visibility), Fiddler's Creek Preserve, St Michael's Preserve (germ plasm conservation orchard), SBMWA Preserve, and possibly HV High School.

Actions: Mike will present this project at an upcoming Twp Committee meeting using the power point presentation that Rex prepared.

D. Sustainable Jersey Grant Proposal

Members of the HV Arts Council and EC recently visited Woolsey Park to discuss their ideas for proposed improvements. Our grant proposal is an "out of the ashes" vision for the park, including various upscale components from resourced ash trees and a chestnut tree planting area. It also includes monies to hire a landscape architect to better plan our vision.

We will provide a SJ sample resolution to the Twp Committee for their approval to apply for this \$20k grant sponsored by PSE&G.

Actions: Rex will prepare an additional recommendation paragraph from the EC, Nora will finalize the resolution, and once approved by the TC, Mark will submit our application to SJ.

Note: At a subsequent meeting, we will further discuss Bill's idea to plant seeds for future arboretum trees for the park.

E. **Community Forestry Management Plan**

Our 2017 annual report is due soon. We need numbers from our Public Works dept.

Action: Nora and Mark will complete this task.

Once complete, we could then apply for CSIP grants for tree planting and/or removal work.

F. **Shade Tree Ordinance**

Our goal is to replace the entire 1974 model ordinance with a newer version in the Twp Code, which shall replace the Shade Tree Commission references with Environmental Commission, and update the list of approved woody plant species.

Mike R. searched the code and saw two other citations in the code outside of the ordinance that refer to Shade Tree Commission.

Actions: Nora will update the list of species as discussed tonight. Nora will also compare the 1974 ordinance with the proposed version and note where any changes occur.

Note: the proposed ordinance will be reviewed by the Twp Planner and Attorney before going before the Twp. Committee for adoption.

Announcements / Correspondence

1. The Mercer County Green Fest will be held Sat., March 17 at Rider University.
2. Pennington Day will be held on Sat., May 19. Is their interest to share a booth with the HV Green Team?

* The meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm: Motion – Mike, 2nd Rex; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary