



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, March 19, 2019

* The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Mike Aucott, Jim Gambino, Andrew Plunkett, Rex Parker, Bill Washburn, Vanessa Sandom and Nora Sirbaugh

Members absent: Ray Nichols, George Kerr

Also present: Mark Kataryniak - Twp Administrative Officer

Michael Ruger - Twp Committee Liaison

Members of the Public present: Mike Pisauero, Paul Kenny, James Duffy

Minutes for Approval

The January 15, 2019 draft minutes were approved with no changes – Motion, Jim; 2nd Andrew; Abstain – Mike A., Vanessa

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

Note: the February 19, 2019 minutes will be discussed at our next meeting.

Stewardship Grant (note this item was not on our agenda, but was approved at the start of our meeting)

Mike Pisauero, of the Watershed Institute, spoke to us regarding a stewardship grant they are applying for to create a fenced enclosure area and ADA boardwalk at their preserve. He was seeking the EC's support and recommendation. We unanimously agreed to support this endeavor.

Action: Mike P. will draft a Letter of Recommendation from the EC to the Watershed, provide it to Mark, and the EC will discuss it at our April meeting.

Our discussion on stewardship continued where it was suggested to coordinate valley-wide stewardship projects and maintenance work together with our local non-profits. The Twp's Open Space Committee would take the lead in this effort.

Action: Michael R. will discuss this issue with the Open Space Committee at their next meeting.

Public Comment

Paul Kenny discussed his concerns regarding our current curbside recycling program and the many issues associated with it. We decided to invite the Mercer County Improvement Authority and HV Green Team to speak at our next meeting about this topic.

Action: Mark and Nora will coordinate this effort.

Zoning Board Application Review

Case No. 2019-02: Mella House
Block 21, Lot 31; 31 Stony Brook Road; VRC District
Use Variance Interpretation

We reviewed and discussed the application with Mark and have no environmental concerns.

Planning Board Application Review

Stanley Maziarz Estate
Block 4, Lot 24, 194 Van Dyke Road, MRC District
Two lot Minor Subdivision; residential and open space, with bulk variance

We reviewed and discussed the application with Mark and have no environmental concerns.
Vanessa recused herself from this discussion.

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

A. Twp Committee Liaison Report

Michael asked about our Arbor Day plans. We have ongoing tree projects including a tree seedling giveaway on April 6 and replanting chestnuts at Fiddler's Creek Preserve on April 11.

Actions: Mark will update last year's Arbor Day Proclamation for adoption at an upcoming Twp Committee meeting.

We will also add the chestnut replanting project and recycling info onto the haveyoursayhopewell web site.

B. Woody Plant Ordinance

Nora and Jim received a 2nd draft from Cheryl Bergailo plus a list of utility approved street trees.

Action: Nora will forward this info to all EC members to review and discuss at our next meeting.

C. Tree City USA and Community Forestry Management Program

Mark reported that he recently completed and submitted our annual renewal for Tree City USA and our annual report for the CFMP.

D. Tree Seedling Giveaway

We will be distributing tree seedlings to our community residents on Saturday, April 6 from 9:30 to Noon at the rear of our Public Works Building.

Actions: EC members are asked to help at the giveaway.

The Twp. Committee will continue to announce this event at future meetings.

E. Chestnut Tree Planting Project

We are planning to replant the Fiddler's Creek site with new seeds on April 11.

Action: Come help with the planting. We will meet at 9:00 am at the site.

Mike A. will also be presenting this topic at the NJ Conservation Foundation Land Rally on April 12.

F. Water Monitoring

Action: Mike is still planning to contact USGS to learn about the November 2018 data anomaly.

G. Revenue-Neutral Carbon Fee Bill

We discussed Mike A.'s draft Resolution and suggested some changes. We voted to approve sending the amended Resolution to the Twp Committee to consider supporting - Motion, Rex; 2nd Mike A.; all in favor.

Action: Mike will forward the amended Resolution to Mark.

H. Single-Use Plastics Ban

No update. Ray did not forward the link to the NJ Bills.

I. Arboretum in Woolsey Park

Andrew and Jim met to walk around the park and share some ideas for the arboretum. Jim also obtained some park maps from Mark.

Action: continue work on this project.

New Business

A. Planning for Arbor Day Events

Will we be planting a memorial tree for David Blackwell?

B. Recycling Education / Coordination with Green Team

See Public Comment on pg. 1.

Announcements & Correspondence

A. Mercer County 4H Fair

This year's fair is being held August 3rd and 4th at Howell Living History Farm. We discussed the possibility of staffing a public education booth at this event.

* The meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm: Motion – Jim, 2nd Rex; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary