



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, April 17, 2018

* The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Rex Parker (left at 8:38), Jim Gambino, Ray Nichols, George Kerr, Nora Sirbaugh, and Mike Aucott (arrived at 7:28)

Members absent: Bill Washburn, Vanessa Sandom, Tim Wilson

Also present: Michael Ruger - Twp Committee Liaison,

Members of the Public present: Sharon Magee, Harvey Lester

Minutes for Approval

The February 20, 2018 draft minutes were approved with minor changes – Motion, Rex; 2nd Jim; Abstain – Ray and George

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

Zoning Board Application Reviews

1. Case No 2018-05: **Radi & Debra Ialamov;**
68 Yard Road; Block 48, Lot 1.01; VRC District
Residential Addition
Hardship / Bulk Variance

We reviewed and discussed the application and Mark Kataryniak's summary.

We have no environmental concerns for the proposed project, but recommend that any new trees planted should be species selected from the Township's preferred plant list.

2. Case No 2018-07: **Wendy Meyer;**
308 Hopewell-Amwell Road; Block 8, Lot 74.01; VRC District
Adding Second Residential Dwelling as principal use
Use Variance

We reviewed and discussed the application and Mark Kataryniak's summary.

The proposed dwelling unit is outside the stream buffer area on this property.

The existing zoning for this portion of the Township was adopted because of well documented studies demonstrating that the geology of this area poses substantial limitations on density due to concerns for long term protection of ground water quality and quantity.

No information has been provided regarding the availability and suitability of water supply or waste water disposal that would mitigate the additional usage based upon the establishment of a second residence.

In addition, the owners have not addressed the possibility of modifying the existing 2.5 story house to accommodate the need to care for the elderly parents of one of the two residents of that

house, as has been requested in the other application (Case No. 2018-05) reviewed today by the EC.

Planning Board Application Review

1. James and Amy Regan and Harbourton Foundation:

Block 51, Lots 22.03 & 28, 189 Woosamonsa Road, VRC & MRC Zones
Proposed Minor Subdivision

We reviewed and discussed the application.

We have no environmental concerns for the proposed subdivision.

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

A. BMS Resolution to safeguard sensitive lands

Representing the Washington Crossing Audubon Society, Ms. Magee spoke her concerns regarding this resolution and its impact on the Stony Brook Corridor. Mike R. stated the Twp Committee approved the resolution at their April 9th meeting.

Note: EC Members did not receive any information related to this topic. Members agree we should be kept informed in a timely manner so that we can comment on such resolutions.

Action: Mark Kataryniak will forward Ms. Magee's information to the EC members.

B. Solar Update

Rex informed us that a presentation was held at Mercer County VoTech School to present our solar challenge award to them.

Action: Rex, Nora and Vanessa will produce a related press release.

C. Tree City USA

Nora reported that the Twp has officially been accepted as a Tree City USA town.

D. Chestnut Tree Planting Project

Mike A. reviewed more details of the project and we discussed upcoming planting dates.

Action: Mike A. will present this project at an upcoming Twp Committee meeting and get approval to plant at Woolsey Park.

E. Pennington Day

The EC does not plan to staff a booth at this May 19 event.

Action: Mike A. will prepare a Chestnut Tree Project handout which the HV Green Team and/or HV Arts Council staff will have available for patrons to take.

F. Water Monitoring

Mike A. questioned whether the Twp has signed this year's contract with USGS for monitoring the Scotch Rd Well.

Action: Mike R. will check with Twp staff to see if this was done.

G. Sustainable Jersey Grant

Nora informed us that the Twp did not receive the grant.

Action: Nora will contact SJ to find out why we did not receive the grant.

H. Shade Tree Ordinance

Nora updated the list of species, and compared and noted changes between the 1974 ordinance and the proposed version.

Actions: Nora will forward her work to Mike R. for future adoption by the Twp. Committee.

I. Community Forestry Management Plan

Our 2017 annual report is overdue.

Action: Mike R. will check with Mark Kataryniak to see if the report has been submitted.

Announcements / Correspondence

1. 2018 ANJEC Grants for Open Space Stewardship

Action: We do not plan to apply for this grant and question what outstanding work could be done to complete our goals for the previous Conservation Easement Grant.

2. Mercer County 4H sent a letter about the summer fair at Howell Living History Farm and whether we would like to staff a booth.

Actions: The EC does not plan to staff a booth at this event.

Mike A. will check with The American Chestnut Tree Foundation about obtaining a display box we could use at community events.

Public Comment

Mr. Lester voiced his opinion that our members do not appear concerned about the Twp's affordable housing plans and their effect on our environment, especially as it relates to allowable lot coverage area. Most members replied back to Mr. Lester's concern.

- * The meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm: Motion – Rex, 2nd George; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary