



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Note: this meeting was conducted using a Zoom videoconferencing application.

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

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Vanessa Sandom, Andrew Plunkett, Nora Sirbaugh, Rex Parker, Paul Kinney, Mike Aucott, Jim Gambino and Ray Nichols.

Members absent: George Kerr

Also present: Mark Kataryniak - Twp Administrative Officer

Courtney Peters-Manning – Twp Liaison

Members of the Public present: Bob English (7:35 pm), Kevin Kuchinski (7:52 pm)

Minutes for Approval

The February 18, 2020 draft minutes were approved – Motion Ray, 2nd Nora; Abstain – Rex; all in favor.

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

Public Comment - none

Zoning Board Application Reviews

Case No. 2020-4: **Dohanic**

Block 88, Lot 33.04; 1574 Reed Road; SI Zoning District

Bulk and Conditional Use Variance for two indoor pools for aquatics classes

We note the property is served by public water, private septic system, and is also near the headwaters of Ewing Creek. We are concerned about the pool water discharge, since the septic system is not designed for this purpose.

The proposed pools will contain a large volume of water which most likely will be treated with some form of disinfectant, such as common chlorine. We question how often the pool water discharge might occur? And how and where will this water be safely discharged so it will not adversely affect neighboring properties or the local environment?

We ask that the Zoning Board have the applicant provide satisfactory answers to our questions.

Case No. 2020-5: **Rukenstein**

Block 134, Lot 13; 34 River Drive; R-50 Zoning District
Bulk and Use Variance to convert Barn into secondary dwelling

We note the plans do not show the location of the well or septic system area, and the property is located between two important waterways: the D&R Canal and the Delaware River. We question whether the existing septic system can safely and adequately process the anticipated additional load from the two proposed bedrooms. We understand the Township Health Department will review this application and resolve the septic capacity issue.

Actions: Jim will prepare and send our review comments via memo to Jaimie Laird to post with the appropriate applications on the Township website.

Planning Board Application Review - none

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

A. Twp Committee Liaison Report

Courtney reported that:

The Twp Committee has had multiple successful meetings using Zoom.

The 2020 Twp budget was introduced.

The Clean Communities trash pickup scheduled for April was cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The Twp, and Hopewell and Pennington Boroughs agreed which local hiking trails will remain open to the public during the coronavirus shutdown.

The Woody Plant Ordinance is on hold as the Twp works on other issues.

The Twp is working to produce a contract with Concord Energy for our Community Energy Aggregation program.

B. Planning Board Liaison Report – their April 23 meeting will discuss the Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing application: Site Plan Amendment for Building Expansion & Site Improvements

C. Zoning Board Report – none

D. Single-Use Plastics

Ray reported the NJ Senate passed a revised version of Bill 2776 which they sent to the NJ Assembly for a vote.

The Hopewell Borough plastic bag ban begins on Earth Day, April 22.

Paul reported his discussions with Silvia Kay of the Sierra Club about single-use plastics.

Action Paul will forward information to Mark and Nora to consider having Silvia conduct a presentation to educate the public at a future EC Zoom meeting.

E. Arbor Day Events

The tree seedling giveaway scheduled for April 4 was cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Kevin informed us that NJDEP will wait to distribute the Salem Oak tree seedlings to all NJ municipalities later this year.

Nora reported there are no seedlings available from the Mercer Oak; cuttings may become available to propagate. She also asked members to take photos with trees (virtual Arbor Day April 24) which may be used in the 2021 Twp Calendar.

F. Grants

Rex reported the Green Team received a \$2,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey to help with their styrofoam collection.

New Business

A. Sustainable Jersey Renewal

The Twp was granted a 1 year extension.

Announcements & Correspondence

We voted to conduct our May meeting via Zoom - Motion Rex, 2nd Ray; Abstentions – none; all in favor.

Action - members must remember to submit agenda items earlier for our May meeting so the Twp has time to adequately notify the public.

- * The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm: Motion – Mike, 2nd Paul; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary