



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, May 15, 2018

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

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Jim Gambino, Mike Aucott, Bill Washburn, Nora Sirbaugh, and Rex Parker

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

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

Members of the Public present: Lisa Wolff, Mike Van Clef, Gretchen Kish, Harvey Lester

Minutes for Approval

The April 17, 2018 draft minutes were approved with no changes – Motion, Rex; 2nd Mike A; Abstain – Bill

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

Zoning Board Application Reviews

1. Case No 2018-08: **Alicia Lambert;**
44 Wilfred Avenue; Block 117, Lot 44; R-50 District
Residential Addition
Hardship / Bulk Variance

We reviewed and discussed the application together with Mark Kataryniak.

We have no environmental concerns for the proposed project.

2. Case No 2018-10: **Glenmoore Farm;**
105 Pennington-Hopewell Road; Block 34, Lot 19; VRC District
Commercial Use of Barn
Use Variance

We reviewed and discussed the application together with Mark Kataryniak.

We have no environmental concerns for the proposed project.

However we do note the plan shows three areas of “future proposed parking” and are concerned about future additional lot coverage. The property is currently 1.5% above the maximum allowable coverage area. If and when the future parking areas are constructed, the owner should be required to use pervious pavement, or provide alternate mitigation so there is no net gain of impervious cover for this property.

3. Case No 2018-11: **Christopher & Kimberly Ananian;**

3 Winding Brook Way; Block 98, Lot 2.09; VRC District
Residential Deck Addition
Hardship / Bulk Variance

We reviewed and discussed the application together with Mark Kataryniak.

We have no environmental concerns for the proposed project.

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

A. Tree City USA

Mark reported Mayor Kuchinski attended a Tree City event in Riverton, NJ where he highlighted the EC's Ash tree work and Chestnut planting project.

B. Chestnut Tree Planting Project

Mike A. and Rex discussed our recent planting work at Hollystone Preserve and Woolsey Park, plus seeds given to the Watershed Institute and D & R Greenway for their nurseries.

Action: Keep all sites watered going forward, especially during dry weather.

C. Pennington Day

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

Rex shared a flyer he prepared as a Chestnut Tree Project handout which the HV Green Team and/or HV Arts Council staff will have available for patrons to take. Nora also provided her Emerald Ash Borer kit to Vanessa for use at the event

D. Water Monitoring

Mike A. reported the Twp has signed this year's contract with USGS for monitoring the Scotch Rd Well. Jim reminded members of our goal to review and analyze quarterly reports of the well data.

Actions: Mike A. will produce a hydrograph of recent well data to discuss at our next meeting.

Nora will provide us with a link to her precipitation data to also discuss at our next meeting.

E. Sustainable Jersey Grant

Nora contacted SJ to find out why we did not receive the grant. She cited the many reasons given for our denial.

Action: Improve the wording in our application and apply for the grant again next year.

F. Shade Tree Ordinance

We discussed changes to our proposed version, including deer damage protection, increasing the guarantee period from one to two years, and EC responsibilities under the ordinance. We also need to clarify who the "project supervisor" is, since this person is mentioned numerous times in the ordinance.

Action: Bill will review the old and proposed ordinances to ensure we are in compliance with guidelines of the Community Forestry Management Plan.

G. Community Forestry Management Plan

Our 2017 annual report is overdue.

Action: Mark is working to complete this task

H. Leaf Compost

Bill reported that both mulch and leaf compost is available for pickup for \$11/cy at the Lawrence/Princeton Eco Facility. They are open between 7:30 am and 2:30 pm Monday through Saturday.

Action: Nora will prepare a press release to residents about leaf compost availability.

New Business

1. Open Space and Recreation Plan Element / Conservation Easement Database

Prior to our meeting, we received a 2 page memo, 4 page proposed resolution and two MS Excel files from fellow member Ray Nichols to consider, plus one Excel file from Nora.

We heard background information from Mark regarding the plan Element update and NJDEP Green Acres rules regarding the ROSI (recreation and open space inventory) document.

We discussed various wording changes to the plan Element draft, but decided to not adopt Ray's resolution at this time since all agreed that our database was not a finished product, and it listed both public and private conservation easements.

Action: Mark needs to receive any additional comments on the plan Element draft ASAP.

2. Wildflower Meadow Basin Project at HT Municipal Complex

Lisa Wolff informed us that the Friends of Hopewell Open Space (FoHVOS) has obtained grant money to convert the stormwater detention basin nearest the municipal building to a productive meadow together with an interpretive sign for visitors. We discussed what signage to use and proposed sign locations. The work should begin in June 2018.

She also discussed FoHVOS meadow projects slated for both Bear Tavern and Stony Brook Elementary Schools this year.

Announcements / Correspondence

1. May 1, 2018 Notice from Civil & Environmental Engineering, Inc. regarding a NJDEP Flood Hazard Area verification application that was filed for 87 Federal City Rd; Block 78.09, Lot 21 (Hopewell) and Block 2704, Lot 1 (Lawrence).

* The meeting adjourned at 9:51 pm: Motion – Mike A., 2nd Rex; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary