



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, May 19, 2020

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

* The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Vanessa Sandom, Nora Sirbaugh, Mike Aucott, Ray Nichols, Rex Parker,
Paul Kinney, Jim Gambino, and Andrew Plunkett (7:10 pm).

Members absent: George Kerr

Also present: Mark Kataryniak - Twp Administrative Officer

Courtney Peters-Manning – Twp Liaison

Members of the Public present: none

Minutes for Approval

The April 21, 2020 draft minutes were approved – Motion, Vanessa; 2nd Paul; Abstentions – none; 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. 2020-6: **Paul Garage Conversion**

Block 61, Lot 11; 146 Church Road; R-100 Zoning District

Bulk Setback Variance to convert garage into recreation room

Note: Rex recused himself from this discussion.

We have no environmental concerns for the proposed project as described in the application.

Case No. 2020-7: **Manczuk Garage Expansion**

Block 32, Lot 4; 114 Mine Road; VRC Zoning District

Bulk Setback Variance to extend garage

We have no environmental concerns for the proposed project as described in the application.

Action: 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

Hopewell Special, LLC & Joanne Gusweiler

Block 5, Lots 12.011 & 12.012, 93 & 97 Stony Brook Road
MRC Zoning District
Major Subdivision – lot line adjustment

We have no environmental concerns for the proposed subdivision / lot line adjustment as described in the application.

Action: Jim will prepare and send our review comments via memo to Linda Barbieri to post with the appropriate application on the Township website.

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

A. Twp Committee Liaison Report

Courtney reported that:

The 2020 Twp budget was approved.

The Twp is planning to hire three contact tracers to help with the corona virus spread.

The Woody Plant Ordinance may appear on the Twp Committee's agenda for a first reading in June.

The Twp plans to join with Hunterdon County for our Community Energy Aggregation program, and is working to produce a contract with Concord Energy.

The Twp Committee approved participation in the NJ Forestry Program's Tree Seedling Giveaway.

B. Planning Board Liaison Report – Marc reported that since the Twp budget passed, a planner could be hired who would begin reviewing the Open Space & Recreation master plan element revisions submitted by the subcommittee last year.

C. Zoning Board Report – Vanessa reported the board considered our comments on last month's application reviews in their recent decisions.

D. Single-Use Plastics

We are planning to have Silvia Kay of the Sierra Club join our next meeting to discuss concerns about single-use plastics.

Action: Paul will forward Silvia's contact information to Mark so she can present at our next meeting.

E. Arbor Day Events

The tree seedling giveaway is currently scheduled for Saturday, June 6 from 9:30-noon and will be held at the Twp Public's Works Building. Most members have volunteered to help at this event.

Action: Mark will contact all volunteers with event details.

New Business

A. Tree Removal on Private Properties

Mark reported that the Twp still does not have the manpower to investigate the alleged tree removal violation on Reed Road reported on April 6.

Announcements & Correspondence

A. Members were in favor to begin our June meeting at 6:00 pm (one hour early) so we could conduct our business prior to Silvia Kay's single-use plastics presentation at 7:00 pm.

Action: members should submit agenda items early for our June meeting so the Twp has time to adequately notify the public.

B. The D&R Greenway newsletter was e-mailed to all members today.

* The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm: Motion – Paul, 2nd Mike; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary