



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

- * The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Ray Nichols, Andrew Plunkett, Jim Gambino, Mike Aucott
and Nora Sirbaugh

Members absent: George Kerr, Rex Parker, Vanessa Sandom

Also present: Michael Ruger - Twp Committee Liaison

Members of the Public present: Dan Napoleon, Paul Kenny, Scott Fulmer, Noem De La Puente

Note: Bill Washburn stopped in briefly to say goodbye since he is moving to Ohio. Bill's departure leaves an open member position on the Commission.

Minutes for Approval

The April 16, 2019 draft minutes were approved with no changes – Motion, Ray; 2nd Jim;
Abstain – Andrew

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

Recycling discussion with MCIA

Dan Napoleon, of the Mercer County Improvement Authority (MCIA) joined us to discuss some current issues with the County's curbside recycling program.

Facts:

- * Recycling is the law. Fines can be issued for non-compliance.
- * In 2019 the Township pays \$239,000 to MCIA to participate in the program, which is 40% higher than our 2018 cost of \$172,000. Our cost may continue to increase each year.
- * The portion of individual property taxes which goes to Mercer County does not help fund the MCIA.
- * Much of the increased cost to Hopewell and other participating towns in Mercer are due to contaminants which are regularly collected by the haulers and separated out by the processing facility for landfill disposal.
- * The contamination rate is approximately 11%, with take-out pizza boxes and plastic bags the main items of concern.
- * Haulers do not have the time or resources to issue red-tag warnings to individual violators.

Public Comment:

Scott Fulmer asked about the unit of measure used to determine the contamination rate – answer, not sure – it is done at the processing facility.

Paul Kenny asked if volunteers could help with issuing red tags on recycling containers – answer, yes.

Noem De La Puente suggested reading “NJ Think outside the Bag” on Facebook.

Next steps - Actions: Mr. Ruger suggested having a worksession dedicated to curbside recycling at an upcoming Twp Committee meeting where the public can learn the facts, and ideas can be presented for improvements.

This issue could be relayed through the Twp Newsletter, which is published three times per year.

The Township could do a direct mailing to residents about this issue and connect the community to recycling info/tools.

We could talk to stores in the township who issue single-use plastic bags to their customers as part of their daily business about the recycling issue.

We could ask local pizza shops to attach a note to each take-out box about the recycling issue.

The EC and Green Team could help educate the public about the recycling issue.

Zoning Board Application Review

Case No. 2019-04: Weber Building Addition

Block 18, Lot 56; 7 Sunset Drive; MRC Zoning District
Rear Yard Setback Variance

We reviewed and discussed the application and have no environmental concerns. However, we do not know what the maximum lot coverage area for this parcel is.

Action: Jim will prepare and send our review comments via memo to Jaimie Williamson to post with this application on the Township website.

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

A. Twp Committee Liaison Report

The Township budget was passed.

There will be an upcoming worksession for our Sign Ordinance.

There was a question about lighting flags in the recently updated Lighting Ordinance

Hopewell Twp. can lead or follow on recycling improvements.

Action: a recycling worksession is being planned. Members should suggest ideas for a recycling info page in our 2020 Township Calendar.

B. Planning Board Report - none

C. Zoning Board Report - none

D. Woody Plant Ordinance

Nora merged all member comments from the 2nd draft. This proposed 3rd version was renamed the Native Plant Land Use Ordinance and forwarded to all members plus Mark Kataryniak and Cheryl Bergailo prior to tonight's meeting.

E. Tree City USA

One Tree City street sign was placed along the entrance drive of the municipal building off Rt 546. Jim suggested placing the second sign near the Scotch Rd entrance to the municipal building.

F. Chestnut Tree Project

Mike reported that he is planning to work on planting projects with the four township elementary schools.

G. Revenue-Neutral Carbon Fee Bill

Mike reported that he contacted Sustainable Jersey who is interested in supporting this bill.

H. Single-Use Plastics Ban

No update.

Action: members are asked to visit www.baglaws.com for the latest updates.

I. Arboretum in Woolsey Park

No update.

Action: our subcommittee will plan to meet soon.

New Business

A. David Blackwell Memorial @ Woolsey Park.

Nora showed us a sample of the memorial plaque. Jim explained the cost of the plaque will be approximately \$400 and the cost for the recently planted memorial red oak tree is \$500. We then discussed how we could pay these costs. Some, but not all of the funding could come from the EC budget.

Action: reach out to the Twp Historical Preservation Commission and HV Historical Society to solicit partial funding for the memorial project.

Announcements & Correspondence

A. May 6, 2019 Public Notice Letter from Brian J. Friedlich, P.E.. regarding a flood hazard area permit application filed on behalf of Honey Lake Association, Inc to NJDEP to dredge sediments that have accumulated at the bottom of the lake since its construction in 1963.

* The meeting adjourned at 9:49 pm: Motion – Mike A, 2nd Ray; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary