



# TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of  
Tuesday, June 16, 2020

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

\* The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

#### **Statement of Compliance & Roll Call**

Members present: Vanessa Sandom, Rex Parker, Paul Kinney, Nora Sirbaugh, Jim Gambino, Mike Aucott (6:19), Ray Nichols (6:25), and Andrew Plunkett (~7:15)

Members absent: George Kerr

Also present: Mark Kataryniak - Twp Administrative Officer

Courtney Peters-Manning – Twp Liaison

Members of the Public present: Catherine & Russ Granzow, Eric Holterman, Silvia Kay, and a few others who did not comment.

#### **Minutes for Approval**

The May 19, 2020 draft minutes were approved – Motion, Vanessa; 2<sup>nd</sup> Rex; Abstentions – none; all in favor.

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

**Public Comment** – see stream corridor permit application review and single-use plastics presentation below.

**Zoning Board Application Reviews** - none

#### **Planning Board Application Review**

**Capital Health System, Inc.**

**Continuing Care Retirement/Rehabilitation Community (CCRC)**

Block 91, Lot 3.961, 1 Capital Way

IPD-3 Overlay Zoning District

Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision – 2 lots

We reviewed and discussed this application together with Mark and have no environmental concerns for the proposed subdivision 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.

## **Stream Corridor Permit Application Review**

Catherine & Russ Granzow: Block 92, Lot 26, 237 Washington Crossing – Pennington Road  
Residential lot, VRC Zone, Woolsey Brook

We reviewed and discussed this application together with Mark and the property owners. We agree with the engineering recommendations and reasons, and also recommend granting a waiver and approving the permit. We asked the owners to regularly mow less of the buffer area and plant additional native species within the buffer to enhance its function and they agreed.

## **Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects**

### **A. Twp Committee Liaison Report**

Courtney reported that:

Sunoco has acquired two properties on Creek Rim Drive in order to access a work area needed to repair an underground pipe. They purchased these two properties as an accommodation to the owners of said properties, rather than obtaining easements, and they will sell the properties back to residential users once the project is complete, which they anticipate will be some time in 2021.

The Twp plans to join with Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative for our Community Energy Aggregation program. They are working to produce a contract with Concord Energy which is expected by late summer or fall.

**Action:** the EC may be asked to help promote the renewable energy component of the CEA program.

The Woody Plant Ordinance continues to be refined by cross checking Twp Codes before going to the Twp Committee for approval.

### **B. Planning Board Liaison Report – none**

C. **Zoning Board Report** – Vanessa reported the board passed two cases that we commented on last month.

### **D. Chestnut Tree Initiatives**

Mike provided an update on the various planting sites. The trees planted at Woolsey Park are doing very well. He also discussed the recent publication of a related article that he and Rex produced.

### **E. Arbor Day Events**

The tree seedling giveaway was held Saturday, June 6 from 9:30-noon at the Twp Public's Works Building. Mark reported more than 60 people visited and we gave out about one-half of the 1,000 seedlings we received. The rest were planted at FoHVOS's Thompson Preserve within a fenced enclosure.

**Action:** Mark will report our event details to the NJDEP.

## **New Business**

### **F. Single-Use Plastics Presentation**

Silvia Kay of the NJ Sierra Club joined us to present and discuss the many environmental concerns associated with the continued use of single-use plastics. What can we do to reduce plastic waste?

**Actions:** Paul was selected as lead person for our newly formed single-use plastics subcommittee. Members are asked to send any related ideas, action items or solutions to Paul.

Andrew said he would help schools with this issue.

**Announcements & Correspondence**

A. Nora mentioned that Mike Pisauro of the Watershed Institute has asked to present the NJDEP's new stormwater regulations at our July meeting, which again will start one hour early.

\* The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm: Motion – Paul, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Gambino  
Secretary