

TOWN OF HAMMONTON
Environmental Commission
Minutes

February 11, 2015

Chairman Reitmeyer opened the meeting at 7:35 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present:

Robert Reitmeyer, Chair
 Angela Donio
 Dr. Michael Hozik
 Dr. Kathy Sedia
 Chris Jage

Members Absent:

Terri Caruso-Cafiso, Vice-Chair
 Marty Matro
 Amy Menzel
 Steven Carr

Others Present:

Councilman Steven Furgione
 Jerry Barberio, Town Business Administrator
 Robert A. Vettese, ARH
 Paul Macrie, Hammonton Gazette
 Jody Carrara, ANJEC
 Cheryl Reardon, ANJEC
 Geoff Richter, PPA

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 2015 meeting as amended to indicate that Commissioner Jage questioned whether the activity at Tuckahoe Turf Farm is a violation of the Pinelands Development Credit program made by Commissioner Hozik, seconded by Commissioner Sedia. All In favor. Motion carried.

Motion to alter the order of business made by Commissioner Jage, seconded by Commissioner Donio. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Reitmeyer excused himself from the meeting at this point to address a family matter.

Correspondence:

Notice of 2015 ANJEC grant; Commissioner Jage asked Jerry Barberio what \$1500 could do; Jerry did not have a ready answer but mentioned that the Town has been hiring an intern for 80 hours each summer to do the tree inventory; Jerry took a course in iTree, and found we are collecting too much information; we need to move through the town faster; need to be done this year because our CFMP needs to be renewed in 2016; Chris will contact ANJEC to see if hiring an intern to do this is eligible for ANJEC funding;

Commissioner Jage also asked about a potential bike path extension; Jerry said he doesn't want to pursue additional bike paths until we have completed the ones that are in progress, so we can connect them efficiently.

Committee Reports:

Planning Board- No Report

Town Council- Councilman Furgione Reported—Lake View Drive Rt 30 drainage project is complete and has solved the bottle neck of water; Drip irrigation project on Boyer Avenue will start in April and go for about 3 months; drip ran today and pushes out about 1 million gallons per day

Parks & Recreation- Business Administrator Jerry Barberio reported there was nothing that pertained to this board; however facility agreements for softball and baseball was discussed as was funding for senior yoga classes.

GEHRC- Commissioner Jage No meeting; it is later this month; The Mayor created the Bicycle advisory Council to find safe routes to school, complete streets, and encourage walking and biking; Steve Carr, Dan Bachalis, Chris Jage, and someone else; need to itemize bike racks, bike trails

Zoning Board- No Report

Green Committee- No Report

HLWOC- Councilman Furgione reported; they cleaned up their mission statement and will distribute it next month or so; Beer bottles on walking trail from Egg Harbor Road; Chief of Police has been notified; will clean up barrels in the lake; spraying for bladder wort; discussed putting in one board and start bringing water level back up; passed a resolution addressing Klean Flow and Bladderwort spraying; Lake Clean up will be on February 28; Angela has distributed flyers; Volunteers—Terri and Marty probably put up flyers at the school

Old Business:

1. **7th Annual Hammonton Lake Park Cleanup:** The Commission discussed remaining items for the event. Planning is largely complete. The emphasis now is on soliciting for volunteers.

New Business:**Presentation by ARH (Grape Street Reconstruction):**

Bob Vettese presented the updated landscaping plans; trees that are being installed are shown on the plans in yellow; red stars mean that the tree has not yet been installed

Red starred trees will be planted in the spring; ARH will contact the resident to make sure they want a tree installed

Had one complaint—560 Grape Street—tree was installed in a slightly different place; homeowner was putting an addition on the house; requested a second driveway which blocked the location for the tree; new location is too close to water service

Chris pointed out that the planting detail on the plans is a good way to kill a tree. Mulch is only used for water retention, not up to the trunk; root flare should be just at the ground surface, not below. Chris will send planting details to Bob Vettese.

Chris will look at the plantings; there is nothing for maintenance; contractor is responsible for maintenance for two years; he needs to replace the ones that die

Jerry offered the use of our gator bags, but not the resources to keep them full

1. Presentation by ANJEC and PPA

PPA will be promoting our water rebate program; will be making a magnet

Want to have a workshop in Hammonton, probably on May 6 or 7 on Hammonton's water rebate program, on native vegetation, and something else. Probably May 7 because this room is booked on May 6

Our water rebate program only had two applicants by the end of 2014, but have had many more (29 +3) since then; promotion is from the insert with the tax bills

They also attended a Green Team meeting

Success will be a reduction of water use, concentrating on outdoor water use; indoor water use has already gone down. Last year we reduced our water use by 80 million gallons, according to Jerry Barberio.

Jerry said that the average rebate was \$50, so the \$10,000 grant will last quite a while. Our guests wondered if there was a spend by date. Jerry was unsure, but he will look into it.

Canvassers will be wearing blue tee shirts and kahkis; Jerry suggested that they contact the police to alert them to areas they are going to canvass.

Tree Removal Applications:

- 1. Frank and Denise Damico at #116 Cypress Court** – Application for the removal of three trees. Approved by Chairman Reitmeyer prior to the March meeting.

Other New Business:

1. Report from Town Business Administrator Jerry Barberio:- Jerry reported that the Annual Report for the Community Forestry Management Plan is due. The Town needs need 8 credits for CFMP between Municipal officials and volunteers; Jerry has received twelve from a conference he went to, but we don't have any obvious volunteer hours. It was also discussed to contact Arborist Mickey Riggins to come and do another training session.

Jerry also discussed that the Complete Streets program requires the Town to develop a training program for training planning board members in the town's Complete Streets objectives; by 2016 the entire Planning Board needs to be trained; Bellevue is difficult to cross north of Third; people do not stop at cross walk by the library. Commissioner Donio also questioned lack of cross walks south of the center of town; Jerry is supposed to be working on it.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Reitmeyer

Environmental Commission, Town of Hammonton