**Hammonton Environmental Commission**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017**

Call to Order

 Attending: Commissioners Caruso, Sacco, Matro, Donio, Menzel, and Bachalis

 Absent: Commissioners Sedia, Carr

 Excused: Commissioner Hozik

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of January 2017 Minutes – Motion to approve: Commissioner Caruso, Second: Commissioner Sacco. Approved by acclamation, Commissioner Matro abstention

Correspondence

**1. Email from Bob Reitmeyer regarding 2017 US Fish & Wildlife Foundation Delaware River Restoration Program RFP** - Commissioner Bachalis discussed the RFP and its possible use as a vehicle to fund green infrastructure projects

Committee Reports

Town Council – Councilman Giralo reported on the ACCC Lake monitoring drone project

Zoning Board – Commissioner Matro noted the Board held its reorganization meeting, John Lyons elected as chairperson

Planning Board – No meeting this month

Parks and Recreation Commission – Commissioner Caruso reported that the Commission reorganized, re-electing Lou Cappuccio and Paul Ordille as co-chairs.

Hammonton Lake Water Quality Advisory Committee – Committee will be meeting next week.

Green Committee – Commissioner Menzel reported that the Committee had held another successful Green Drinks event at Three 3s microbrewery; would be holding an Eye-Opening Film and Lecture Series event on March 27 at Stockton’s Kramer Hall at 6:30 pm on the topic of Water Supply; Town Cleanup event planned for April 29; and Committee continues to work on its Green Business Recognition and Plastic Bag Reduction programs, Sustainable Jersey and Sustainable Schools initiatives.

Bicycle Advisory Committee - Commissioner Bachalis reported the BAC held no meeting in January.

Greater Egg Harbor River Council - Meeting next week

Old Business

**1. Request for Commission Secretary** – Councilman Giralo indicated he would text the Town Business Administrator to initiate posting.

**2. 2017 Work Plan Review** – Pending review of the final revision and update at the March meeting, Commission unanimously approved a Plan for the year.

**3. 2017 Lake Park Clean-up** – Event scheduled for February 25. All parties ready to participate.

Tree Removal Applications

**1. Beverly Celona, 848 N. Third Street:** Application for removal of 65 trees (continued from January meeting). Following a presentation by Sun Up Zero Down representative Caitlin Capelli on behalf of the owner, application approved unanimously with conditions. Motion to approve: Matro; second: Donio.

**2. Sara & Rich Verrillo, 223 Cherry Street:** Application for removal of one (1) tree. Approved unanimously. Motion to approve: Donio; second: Caruso.

**3. Joe Martinelli, 485 S. Chew Road:** Application for removal of five (5) trees. Approved unanimously. Motion to approve: Donio; second: Sacco.

**4. Bates Mill Partners, 501 12th Street:**  Application for removal of three trees (continued from January meeting) Approval to remove granted by Chair, applicant will replace one street tree.

**5. Atlantic City Electric, Grand Street:** Application to top two (2) trees, trim others (continued from January meeting) Approval to top one tree and trim along the lines granted by Chair, continuing review of second tree.

New Business:

 1. USFWF Delaware River Program RFP – Brief recap of earlier presentation

 2. Commissioner Menzel presented a broadsheet on water conservation.

 3. The new Watershed Ambassador for Area 14 (Mullica River), Aysia Gandy, introduced herself. She is available until July 2107 for presentations, projects, etc. She noted an upcoming cleanup of the Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge on February 28, and a “Hooked on Fishing” event on June 10.

 4. Commissioner Caruso noted an applicant on 4th Street had finally completed the removal of some approved trees. Commissioner Donio asked who is responsible for ensuring the sidewalk is repaired.

Adjournment, approximately 8:45 PM