

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Date and Time: October 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Meeting Location: Hightstown Historical Society

Attendees:

Tom Muza
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Henry Wang (Secretary)
Gary Grubb
Judith Schuler
Beverly Asselstine (Planning Board Liaison)
Isabella Fowler

Absent:

Michael Bollentin (Chair)
Joseph Studholme (Vice Chair)
Todd Frantz (Council Liaison)
Shani Peretz
Lucia Middleton (Watershed Institute)

1. **Open Public Meeting Act Statement: In Compliance with Chapter 213 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of the Annual Notice published in the Trenton Times and Princeton Packet by the Borough Clerk and posted on the Borough Website.**
2. **Approval of Agenda: N/A** - No agenda was distributed prior to the meeting.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Regular meeting minutes from September 24, 2024 were approved.
4. **Shade Tree Matters:** David distributed the report prior to the meeting, and provided the following additional updates.
 - a. On South Main, someone had removed a tree without authorization.
 - b. Received approval for grant reimbursement from DEP for trees planted on North and South Main (\$14,000).
 - c. RFP for tree plantings, possibly on South Street: bids were due on Friday October 22nd, and plantings are slated for November.
 - d. Tree planting in Memorial Park was delayed, possible rescheduling for November.
 - e. Tree planting on 224 Sunset is also tentatively scheduled for November
5. **Youth Leadership Internship:** none
6. **Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC):** none
7. **Sustainable New Jersey** (recurring item on the agenda): None
8. **Stream Cleanup:** Tom proposed Saturday, April 26, 2025 for the annual cleanup. He will reach out to Watershed for availability.

9. **Rain Barrel Workshop:** rain barrels are scheduled to be delivered on November 14th. Date is still to be determined, though the idea of having it on April 26th was made, the same day as a potential stream cleanup. There was also discussion about reaching out to Rise to see if they would be interested in obtaining some barrels.

10. **New Business:**

- a. Rutgers Rain Garden competition: Tom will provide more details later.
- b. Rocky Brook Park: what is the going on with the rain garden? Is DPW supposed to maintain it? Someone on the Commission should reach out.

11. **Grants and Funding Update:** none

12. **Plan Review:** None

13. **Conferences and Workshops:** None

14. **Correspondence:** None

15. **Planning Board:** the Planning Board presented the Master Plan to Borough Council and it was well received.

16. **Complete Streets Committee:** the Committee will be providing an annual report to Borough Council

17. **Liaison updates:** None

18. **Council Updates:** None

19. **Adjournment**