

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Date and Time: July 23, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Meeting Location: Hightstown Historical Society

Attendees:

Michael Bollentin (Chair)
Joseph Studholme (Vice Chair)
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Henry Wang (Secretary)
Tom Muza
Judith Schuler
Beverly Asselstine (Planning Board Liaison)
Isabella Fowler
Lucia Middleton (Watershed Institute)

Absent:

Gary Grubb
Todd Frantz (Council Liaison)
Shani Peretz
Alexa Gamburg

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:** Agenda was approved.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Regular meeting minutes from June 25, 2024 were approved.
4. **Shade Tree Matters:** David's report was distributed prior to the meeting, here are some highlights:
 - a. Tree Work: STO recommended removing two (2) trees from Association Park.
5. **Youth Leadership Internship:** none
6. **Complete Streets Committee:** none
7. Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC): none
8. **Sustainable New Jersey** (recurring item on the agenda): Mike is still working on the application, to be submitted on the 31st.
9. **Planning Board:** regarding the Master Plan re-examination, see below.

- A draft was submitted with the EC's comments, which will also incorporate the new stormwater management plan.
- Review of timeline:
 - a) August: draft will be posted on website, to be distributed to volunteer organizations. September will be public hearing.
 - b) September meeting: public hearing for report.
 - c) October meeting: review of public comments.
 - d) November: vote

10. Old Business: none

11. New Business:

- There was discussion about a potential re-formed Lake Management Committee. It makes sense that there would be some involvement/overlap with the EC.
- Oak Lane property: there was a question from a property owner on Oak Lane, whose backyard looks into a property in East Windsor on Rt. 130. Currently the owner intends to build a commercial building there, possibly a hotel. The Oak Lane homeowner is concerned about the trees being cut down and affecting his view/stormwater runoff. Ultimately his or her question was whether he or she could prevent that property owner from cutting down the trees.

After the meeting Bev updated the EC, noting that per the Borough Clerk and the Borough's Ordinance, any trees that are removed need to be replaced, as granted by permit through the EC. The Tree Ordinance was approved in February 2024. No application has yet been made to the planning board.

12. Grants and Funding Update: none

13. Plan Review: None

14. Liaison updates:

- Watershed: there is an intern being supervised by Lucia. He or she is working on a project related to flooding in Hightstown.

15. Correspondence: None

16. Conferences and Workshops: None

17. Council Updates: None

18. Rain Barrel Workshop: no update

19. Adjournment