

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Date and Time: September 24, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Meeting Location: Hightstown Historical Society

Attendees:

Michael Bollentin (Chair)
Joseph Studholme (Vice Chair)
Henry Wang (Secretary)
Tom Muza
Judith Schuler
Beverly Asselstine (Planning Board Liaison)
Todd Frantz (Council Liaison)
Isabella Fowler

Absent:

David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Gary Grubb
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:** Agenda was approved.
- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Regular meeting minutes from July 23, 2024 were approved.
- 4. Shade Tree Matters:** no report was distributed prior to the meeting and Dave was not present at the meeting. He emailed prior to the meeting indicating that he is working on developing a bid package for new street trees this fall
- 5. Youth Leadership Internship:** none
- 6. Complete Streets Committee:** Bev provided an update regarding Mercer County's Vision Zero Steering Committee. She had attended a prior meeting but the September one was canceled. Overall their goal is to draft an action plan by mid-2025 in order to apply for funding from state and federal programs.
- 7. Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC):** none
- 8. Sustainable New Jersey** (recurring item on the agenda): Mike submitted the application on July 31st, which is under review.
- 9. Planning Board:** Bev also provided an update regarding the Master Plan re-examination. The public hearing was in September. The draft Master Plan will be presented to Council on October 31st. The

ask from EC is to assist a proposed Committee for Planning Work, specifically on open space and recreational elements (which included conservation projects).

10. Old Business: none

11. New Business:

- Lake Management Committee: Joe did some research on municipal lake committees. In a nutshell, they meet and work with local governments. We would need Borough Council to approve. This could be fleshed out with the Planning Board Committee for Planning Work.

12. Grants and Funding Update: none

13. Plan Review: None

14. Liaison updates: None

15. Correspondence: None

16. Conferences and Workshops: None

17. Council Updates: None

18. Rain Barrel Workshop: Henry provided an update. He was in contact with a Watershed coordinator, who indicated that she would likely have about 10 barrels left over from the Ewing event. She is able to conduct a workshop in spring and suggested March. The EC liked this idea and would like the event to go forward. Several members indicated they could store the barrels prior to the workshop, and there should be a public space where it can be held. Further details to be provided in upcoming meetings.

19. Adjournment