

## MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Meeting Date and Time:** June 25, 2024 at 7:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** Hightstown Historical Society

**Attendees:**

Joseph Studholme (Vice Chair)  
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)  
Henry Wang (Secretary)  
Gary Grubb  
Judith Schuler  
Beverly Asselstine (Planning Board Liaison)  
Isabella Fowler

**Absent:**

Michael Bollentin (Chair)  
Todd Frantz (Council Liaison)  
Shani Peretz  
Alexa Gamburg  
Tom Muza  
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 with the addition of one item – Rain Barrel Workshop
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Regular meeting minutes from May 28, 2024 were approved.
4. **Shade Tree Matters:** David's report was distributed prior to the meeting, here are some highlights:
  - a. NJ DEP Forestry Grant Project: all requirements for the grant were uploaded in support of the final payment. All trees have been planted except two (2).
5. **Youth Leadership Internship:** none
6. **Complete Streets Committee:** recent update from the state is that they are planning to re-pave route 33.
7. Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC): none
8. **Sustainable Jersey** (recurring item on the agenda): Bella is currently working on re-certification. Judy indicated she is willing to assist. Bev noted that she may be able to contact the Borough for documentation.

**9. Planning Board:** regarding the Master Plan re-examination, see below.

- Planning Board wants to focus on accomplishments made by the EC.
- For final recommendations, Planning board is trying to reduce the number of objectives and focus on key objectives.
  - Examples: Peddie Lake, Rocky Brook, and Timber Run.
  - Stormwater management: Waiting for Carmela (borough engineer). Borough has updated ordinance to comply with new state legislation, but waiting for the engineer's recommendations. Bev spoke to Susan Bristol at Watershed and she will provide input after our recommendations.
  - Greenway plan: potential easements and restrictions on development.
- Master plan needs to update the open space/ recreation element
- Conservation easements has not happened.
- Green development checklist? All present were in favor of this.
- Achieve sustainable NJ designation: EC should continue so we can get access to grants.
- Sustainability elements should be standalone.
- Timeline: July meeting will be for adjustments. Post draft in August. September will be public hearing.
- Recommendations:
  - Parks and recreation: EC will to coordinate with public works
  - Open space plan will need additional feedback and due diligence.
  - Creation of a Lake Committee should be on the table.
  - Extension of greenway is an ongoing project at the Borough and County levels. Related to this Bev will send the John Bull storyboard/maps (bike trail).

**10. Old Business:** none

**11. New Business:** none

**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:**

- a. Henry talked about how he attended a “build a rain barrel” workshop at The Watershed. One of the coordinators mentioned that she is doing a similar event at Ewing and that it could be done in Hightstown as well.
- b. EC members expressed interest in this idea. Henry to reach out to Watershed for further information.

**19. Adjournment**