

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Date and Time: May 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Meeting Location: Hightstown Historical Society

Attendees:

Michael Bollentin (Chair)
Joseph Studholme (Vice Chair)
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Henry Wang (Secretary)
Gary Grubb
Judith Schuler
Todd Frantz (Council Liaison)

Absent:

Shani Peretz
Alexa Gamburg
Tom Muza
Lucia Middleton (Watershed Institute)
Isabella Fowler

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 April 16, 2024 were approved.
4. **Shade Tree Matters:** David's report was distributed prior to the meeting, here are some highlights:
 - a. Homeowner at 224 Sunset has asked that the London Planetree planted there be moved. STO requiring the homeowner to participate in the work to move the tree. Potential dates to be provided by homeowner.
 - b. Tree City USA re-certified
 - c. Community Forest Management Plan approved.
5. **Youth Leadership Internship:** Chapter 1 of the Water Story of Hightstown has been completed!
6. **Complete Streets Committee** – Mobility Plan Implementation (recurring item on agenda): borough engineers have submitted plans for improvements to Maxwell and Ward streets. Complete Streets Committee will submit comments on same following their next meeting.
7. Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC): membership for ANJEC was paid.
8. **Sustainable Jersey** (recurring item on the agenda): Michael was able to login to the account, and we have until the end of July to fulfill their requirements.

9. Planning Board: Bev Asselstine of the Planning Board attended and will be acting as interim liaison, she provided the following update from their group and ensuing discussion:

- a. Planning Board is working on the Master Plan re-examination. The existing master plan is from 1998, which contained a Greenway Plan and an ERI (Environmental Resource Inventory). In 2014 there was a push to implement a sustainability element which was never done.
- b. Planning Board would like for the EC to have our input on "Taking the Next Step" document.
- c. David noted we should be spending \$50 per person on open space.
- d. Maybe Watershed can opine. We can have Bev send us the links and we can forward to Lucia.
- e. Demographic data: Mike said we can use this for Sustainable NJ.
- f. Bev noted that economic development is key.
- g. EC should appoint someone to work with the Master Planner.
- h. ERI could use an appendix. For other documents, we can identify what is out of date.
- i. Timeline: the Master Plan needs to be done by end of 2024, and we should have a draft by end of summer.

10. Old Business

- a. Gary noted that the Community Garden is full and there are many active participants.

11. New Business:

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. Adjournment