

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Date and Time: December 2, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Meeting Location: Zoom (remote)

Attendees:

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

Absent:

Isabella Fowler
Gary Grubb

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 October 22, 2024 were approved.

4. Shade Tree Matters:

- Growing Concern is the only business that made a bid to plant three (3) trees as well as removing one (1) from Sunset. Shade Tree Official ("STO" or David) is still waiting on locations on Morrison and South Main, viable locations where the trees can be planted withing a week or so.
- Application to Tree City USA to be submitted by the next meeting. Some details about this were discussed, namely that two (2) people need to be "CORE" trained. Currently it is David and Ken Lewis. Mike also noted that he attended the Shade Tree convention for two (2) days and should be CORE qualified. We also need persons to obtain continuing education credits. This can be an EC member or a CORE trained person.

5. Youth Leadership Internship:

- Lucia has flyers she can distribute.
- Currently there are six (6) applicants, three (3) from Hightstown High, and three (3) from Peddie. She is expecting more will apply. The deadline is December 11th, with the final group of participants to be confirmed by Christmas.
- Expecting the start date to be January 15, 2025.
- When completed, Lucia will share the form with us.

- Lucia noted she would like Carmela Roberts to present about stormwater management, her experience working in Hightstown and her career in general. However, she might need to be compensated for her time. Todd will reach out to her to see what our options are.

6. **Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC):** none

7. **Sustainable New Jersey** (recurring item on the agenda): we were denied this application cycle. Mike will amend the application and apply again next year.

8. **Stream Cleanup:**

- Saturday, April 26, 2025 is still the preferred date. Tom to confirm with Watershed.
- Shredding truck is available, there appears to be a demand for it with residents. Mike will handle the reservation.

9. **Rain Barrel Workshop:** 15 rain barrels were delivered to Mike's house. All are in favor of having the workshop on April 26, 2025 following the stream cleanup. Mike will be able to prep and transport them that day.

10. **New Business:**

- Rutgers Rain Garden competition: Tom is still waiting to hear back from his contact at Rutgers.
- DEP notices: Joe asked whether the EC should be getting notices from the DEP. Todd noted that we did in the past, but perhaps the Borough is not forwarding them to us. Mike will check the mailbox.
- Fuel oil leak at the old Borough Hall: there appears to have been a DEP issue here, but it's private property now. The Planning Board did not receive any notice about it either. Todd can reach out to Peggy about this.

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

12. **Plan Review:** None

13. **Conferences and Workshops:** Mike attended the shade tree convention for two (2) days.

14. **Correspondence:** None

15. **Planning Board:** re-examination report is completed, and now they are sorting through the recommendations. They are working on an annual report as well.

Complete Streets Committee: the Committee is still working on the annual report to Borough Council.

16. **Liaison updates:** None

17. **Council Updates:** None

18. Motion to cancel the scheduled December meeting, with the reorganization meeting to be held in January. Motion was made by Mike and approved by David and Tom.



19. Adjournment