

MINUTES FOR THE RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING OF

THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Date and Time: January 9, 2024 at 7pm

Meeting Location: Held remotely via Zoom

Attendees:

Tom Muza (Chair)
Joseph Studholme (Vice Chair)
Michael Bollentin
Lucia Middleton (Watershed Institute)
Isabella Fowler
Shani Peretz
Alexa Gamberg
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)

Absent:

Todd Frantz (Council Liaison)
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:** Agenda was approved
3. **Attendance:** see above
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Regular meeting minutes from November 28, 2023 were approved.
5. **Re-Organization Discussion**
 - a. Michael will be new Chair
 - b. Joe will remain as Vice Chair
 - c. Henry will remain as Secretary
 - d. Alexa is not officially a member because she is an East Windsor resident. However she has agreed to volunteer with the commission.
6. **Shade Tree Matters:** David's report was submitted in advance. David noted that a Christmas tree will be planted on Arbor Day in Memorial Park.
7. **Arbor Day:** Tom spoke with Watershed and agreed that the stream cleanup will take place on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at Memorial Park. Peddie and Watershed will participate. Tom will look into getting a shredder truck, and a tree planting will happen at noon.
8. **Youth Leadership Internship:** the group is planning to meet at the historical society this coming week. They will conduct 5 meetings, concluding with a final presentation at the firehouse. Shani will coordinate with Peddie to have sessions there as well. Lucia has someone from Sustainable Jersey coming on the second session. They have 7 confirmed students.

9. Hightstown Master Plan

- a. Joe will re-share the Google Document with the committee.
- b. Tom will add some points to the Google Doc. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16p3axU7jVqHRkiXRPt_xvkhW3Lx6Q1Qn?usp=drive_link
- c. We need to emphasize about stormwater management as an issue.

10. Complete Streets Committee – Mobility Plan Implementation (recurring item on agenda)

- a. Master plan notes were submitted to the Planning Board.
- b. They want to secure funding for Safe Routes to School.

11. Sustainable Jersey (recurring item on the agenda): no updates

12. Watershed Institute Conference is being held on February 23, 2024: [Seventh Annual Watershed Conference -- February 23, 2024 | thewatershed.org](https://www.thewatershed.org/seventh-annual-watershed-conference--february-23-2024). All are encouraged to attend.

13. New Business: none

14. Parks and Recreation: none

15. Planning Board Update: none

16. Grants and Funding Update: none

17. Plan Review: none

18. Liaison updates:

- a. The Watershed Institute: none
- b. Meadow Lakes: none
- c. Peddie School: none
- d. Hightstown High School: none

19. Correspondence: None

20. Conferences and Workshops: See above for Watershed conference.

21. Calendar: Discussion of monthly dates, times and location of meetings

- a. Dates: fourth Tuesday of each month: (2/27, 3/26, 4/23, 5/28, 6/25, 7/23, 8/27, 9/24, 10/22, 11/26, no meeting in December)
- b. Time: 7pm
- c. Location: Historical Society

22. Adjournment