

# **Hammonton Environmental Commission**

## **Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019**

### Call to Order - 7:02 PM

Present: Angela Donio	Terri Caruso-Cafiso
Michael Hozik, PhD	Amy Menzel
Alicia Murphy	Steven Carr
Charles Crowley	Dan Bachalis

Excused: Marty Matro

### Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of March 2019 Minutes: Motion to approve – Commissioner Carr; Second – Commissioner Murphy; approved by acclamation

### Correspondence - None

### Committee Reports

Town Council – Councilwoman Sacco: Council is holding two interview sessions for Business Administrator, and hope to finalize selection by the end of April; DOT has awarded funds for Second Road improvements; Council approved hiring of a bilingual Court Clerk; see below for ‘SUP Subcommittee information. The Town is developing a checklist to help guide new businesses interested in basing operations in Hammonton.

Land Use Board – Commissioners Hozik & Matro: No report

Parks and Recreation Commission – Commissioner Cafiso: Kramer Beverage will assist the Town in sprucing up the sports field adjacent to the distributor; the Town approved new supplies for the Dog Park; the Commission recognized the service to the Town by outgoing Business Administrator Jerry Barberio.

Hammonton Lake Water Quality Advisory Committee – Commissioner Bachalis: Committee members noted two benches had been thrown into the Lake; incident reported to Town Public Works, which retrieved them. Committee noted that Lake spraying should not take place this year or next, according to the newly-revised Lake Management Plan; this was brought to the Town’s and Town Engineer’s attention, which ceased action aimed at obtaining permit for the year. Presentation on Friends along the Mullica recounted. Federal government has named three new Wild and Scenic Rivers; possibilities for the Mullica discussed.

Green Committee – Commissioner Menzel: the Community Garden has opened for the season, with plots still available; on Third Thursday (4/18), GC will be working with PPA on its Residential Landscape Makeover program, and giving out reusable bags and other items; May 4 is the Downtown Cleanup and Flower Planting; on the afternoon of May 4, there will be a rain barrel workshop at the Canoe Club; GC continues to work on the Town’s Sustainable Jersey recertification; GC asks for volunteers to help with the June 1 American Red Cross exercise, “Home Fire Campaign”, installing smoke detectors in homes in Hammonton.

Bicycle Advisory Committee – Commissioner Murphy: the Kickstand Crew’s first ride of the season will be on April 18; the Crew is sponsoring a wine tour on May 18.

Greater Egg Harbor River Council – Commissioner Bachalis: No report

### Old Business – Work Plan Updates

EIS – Commissioner Hozik: the Land Use Board approved the revision and submitted the document to Town Council for approval.

NRI – Commissioner Bachalis: we are assured the funding for the NRI revision is included in the Town’s budget. Chair will meet with ARH to review sections to be revised.

Pollinator Garden – Commissioner Bachalis: No report

CFMP – Commissioner Crowley: No report

#### Public Communication

E-Presence – Commissioner Caruso-Cafiso: the Commission’s Facebook page continues to get “Likes”, currently over 140 people following the page.

Press – Commissioner Bachalis: Gazette rejected a recent column explaining the Town’s tree removal permit requirements, saying the Commission should instead take out a paid advertisement to do so.

H.O.P.E. – Commissioner Bachalis: Lake Cleanup a great success. Discussion surfaced recommendations to consider deploying people to additional areas.

Tree Bank – Commissioner Menzel: awaiting the appointment of Jerry Barberio’s successor.

Plastic Bag Campaign – Commissioner Bachalis: per Councilwoman Sacco: the Single Use Plastics Subcommittee met this evening, further discussing the proposed art project; Casciano’s announced it is “going green”, featuring incentivized use of reusable beverage containers, replacing plastic/Styrofoam cups, etc; Shop-Rite is holding an Earth Day event; we will ask Shop-Rite to develop and install signs to remind shoppers to use reusable bags.

#### Grants - no report

Training - Commissioner Bachalis will ask Mickey Riggin for a date for hazardous tree training. Egg Harbor City Green Team is holding a Tree Summit on April 30; several Commissioners expressed interest in attending. Commissioner Bachalis reminded attendees about DEP’s Geo-Web raining on June 19.

Tree Protection – Commissioner Hozik asked Councilwoman Sacco if Public Works Department was pruning trees around town. Councilwoman will follow up with DPW Supervisor Rivera.

Solar Facilities – Commissioner Hozik: Land Use Board recommendations for ordinance revisions were sent to Council for approval.

Planting Strips – Commissioners Donio & Hozik: No report; will take up issue after Easter; suggested adding planting strip measurement to the program for our 2019 Environmental Intern.

Master Plan Green Building Element – Commissioner Caruso-Cafiso: Commissioner Caruso-Cafiso and Commissioner Bachalis will meet to review initial steps for this initiative.

#### Tree Removal Applications

1. Ildefonso Guevara, 344 Boyer Avenue. Two trees, no replanting. Motion to approve: Hozik; second: Caruso-Cafiso; Rejected 5-2.
2. Craig and Susan Danson, 220 S. Third Street. One tree, one replanting. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; second: Donio; approved 7-0.
3. Biran Tandan, 560 Bellevue Avenue. Two trees, two replanting. Motion to approve: Donio; second: Hozik; approved 7-0.
4. Joe Pignolo, 345 Valley Avenue. One tree, no replanting. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; second: Hozik; approved 7-0.
5. Joseph Attard, 544 S. Third Street. Removal of one tree, replanting of one tree. Motion to approve: Menzel; second: Hozik; approved 7-0.
6. Main Road Apartments. Motion to approve: Hozik; second: Donio; approved 7-0

#### New Business:

1. Distribution of “Sandy Recovery” trees: Commissioners should meet at Commissioner Bachalis’ house to pack trees into bundles of five. Distribution will be to fourth-graders

(delivery to the elementary schools) and at Third Thursday. Commissioners are encouraged to help on Third Thursday's public distribution tabling event.

2. The Town has asked the Commission for a letter of support for their request to the County for funding to purchase three parcels for open space preservation. Approval was unanimous by acclamation. Commissioner Bachalis will draft and submit the letter.

Adjournment: 9:30pm