

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Call to Order: 7:04 p.m.

Present: Bachalis, Menzel, Crowley, Matro, Caruso-Cafiso

Excused: Hozick, Murphy, Carr, Campos

Town Council Liaison: Jonathan Oliva

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Joseph Berenato

Others present: Ryan Neidoba and Kevin Neidoba

Pledge of Allegiance

Dispense with Regular Order of Business – Motion: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Menzel.
Motion approved.

Return to Regular Order of Business – Motion to approve: Menzel; Second: Crowley.
Motion approved.

Approval of July 2021 Minutes – Motion to Approve: Crowley; Second: Menzel;
Minutes approved.

Correspondence

Committee Reports

- Town Council – Jonathan Oliva; Town Council approved the Joint Municipal Court between Hammonton, Folsom, Buena, Egg Harbor City and Mullica Twp. The Town is excited about this new endeavor and are in the process of making staffing adjustments to the Court. Clocktoberfest will be returning this year on October 9th. The Town has launched a new/updated website. Jonathan thanked Denise Mazzeo for her efforts in getting the new website up and running. If the Commission needs to have any changes or additions to their page on the website please contact Denise. The Peach Party will be held Saturday, August 14th from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Food Truck Festival will be held along Bellevue Ave. on August 21st. On August 29th the Puerto Rican Festival will be held. The procession begins at 1 p.m. and the flag raising at Town Hall will be at 2 p.m. Town Council also approved the Green Day Festival, the Resolution for support of the grant through Sustainable New Jersey, I.D.'s for employees, committees and commissions.
- Land Use Board – No report.
- Lake Water – No report.
- Green Committee – Amy Menzel; The Community Garden is doing well. They have been donating excess produce to the Community Food Bank in Egg Harbor Township and they are hoping to donate to the St. Vincent Food Bank. Thanks to the Public Works Dept. who has helped mow and clean up at the garden. There has been a lot help from volunteers and missionaries this year. The Green

Business Recognition form is back on the website. Green Day will be held on October 2nd at Veteran's Park. The Sustainable Jersey Certification application was reviewed and needs to be revised and updated. The Committee had a table at National Night Out.

- Bike Advisory – No report.
- Parks & Rec – No report.
- Great Egg Harbor River – No report.

Selected Work Plan Items

1. CFMP – The DEP gave all municipalities in the State an extension due to the pandemic, but the Commission needs to think of the updates for 2022; possibility of hiring Mickey Riggins as the arborist to assist with this.
2. NRI – Approved for transmittal to the Land Use Board. All members were given a hard copy and there is also a disk. ARH did a great job updating the maps, adding new items and incorporating the community suggestions. We are good for 10 years now, thanks to ARH, Maryann Risley and her support staff.
3. Single-Use Plastics – There is a tentative work time set for Friday, August 13th from 10-12 at Warehouse 15 (the old Morano Paper building). Bachalis encouraged members to try to attend and help out if possible. The missionary volunteers have been very hard working and helpful.
4. Open Space Inventory and Plan – Grant needs to be revised and renewed. Dan spoke with Lou Cappuccio and they would like to schedule public hearings for residents to speak on open space for recreation; Does the Town have enough areas? Menzel suggested that the Commission be present at some of the upcoming events and possibly have question or survey cards for residents to complete.

Tree Removal Applications

1. Girard Tell, Sr., 862 Central Avenue. 10 trees removed, one projected replacement. **Under enforcement action, trees removed pre-application. Not considered.**
2. Carianne Torrissi, 1005 N. Egg Harbor Road. One tree, no replacement specified. Motion to approve: Menzel; Second: Crowley. Approved 5-0.
3. John Perrotta, 11 N. 3rd Street. One tree, no replacement. Motion to approve: Menzel; Second: Caruso-Cafiso. Approved 5-0.
4. Lorraine Payne, 209 N. 4th Street. Four trees, no replacement. Motion to approve: Menzel; Second: Crowley. Approved 5-0.
5. Victor Mazza, 157 Broadway. Three trees, no replacement. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Menzel. Approved 5-0.
6. Kevin & Ryan Neidoba, 499 14th Street. Lot clearing, house and pole barn construction. Ryan Neidoba spoke about having people volunteer to come onto the property to remove some small caliber trees and replant at the tree bank or elsewhere. Menzel liked the idea but didn't feel the tree bank could handle more trees so they will need to find another area as well as some pots for planting. Bachalis agreed with Menzel and offered to temporarily store some of the trees behind his home and also suggested the community garden. Caruso-Cafiso asked what the odds of the trees surviving were. Bachalis stated that if they are taken care of and watered chances are very good, and he feels this could work with the

- manpower. Menzel suggested reaching out to the school clubs to ask if they would be able to volunteer to assist. Dan let Mr. Neidoba know that the Commission will work on getting volunteers and he will let him know if they can work something out before the lot clearing begins around Labor Day. Motion to approve: Menzel; Second: Crowley. Approved 5-0.
7. Town of Hammonton, 745 Valley Avenue. One tree, no replacement. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Menzel. Approved 5-0.
 8. Debra McCaabe, 225 Price Street. Two trees, no replacement. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Crowley. Approved 5-0.
 9. Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Albert, 960 S. Grand Street. Twenty trees, no replacements. Motion to approve: Crowley; Second: Caruso-Cafiso. Approved 5-0.
 10. Anthony & Tracy Angelozzi, 425 W. Orchard Street. Two trees at 707 N. 4th Street, two replacements. One tree in not in the way of the home being built and the tree is not in decline. Motion to approve 1 tree: Menzel; Second: Crowley. Approved one tree only: 5-0.
 11. Rocco Fucetola, 410 Grape Street. Two trees, two replacements. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Crowley. Approved 5-0.

New Business

1. Commissioner Crowley stated that there is a home on Egg Harbor Road and the residents were in the process of cutting and trimming trees. The residents have stopped the work. Commissioner Bachalis stated that he believes Mr. Rogers did go out to the property and he believes the owners and the tree service will be cited.
2. Commissioner Crowley also noticed trees being removed at 410 11th Street. He stopped. They had no permit, but the work was already finished and being cleaned up. He instructed them to finish. Commissioner Bachalis will speak with Mr. Rogers about this.
3. Commissioner Menzel mentioned that the Sustainable New Jersey Atlantic/Cape Hub held an event the previous night at the Linwood Arboretum. The arboretum was very nice, well-marked and they do have a lot of very interesting items. Atlantic City Electric had someone speak as well as Crystal from the NJ Tree Foundation who spoke on the tree program. Crystal is also able to assist Town's in finding grants. The Avalon Environmental Commission is doing a tree inventory with I-Trees and they have about 1400 trees entered into I-Tree already. The Egg Harbor City Tree Symposium had an arborist present. Egg Harbor City has power lines in the terraces behind the homes and not in front on the streets and in the tree line. Egg Harbor City is also working on a project to put signage in Lincoln Park on the larger trees so visitors can identify the types. There was a lot of interest in I-Tree at the event.
4. Commissioner Bachalis mentioned that the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Conference will be held on October 21st & 22nd at the Crown Plaza in Cherry Hill. They have some good sessions planned and he encouraged all members to visit the website to look at what was being offered. He will speak with Frank Zuber to see if there are any funds available for some members to attend. The Urban Forest Connections webinar was held today regarding Regional Economic Development.

They focused on Sun Valley in Idaho and how the drought and wildfires are affecting them. Their message was that forest health impacts economic health within a region.

5. Commissioner Menzel mentioned visiting an edible park on her vacation in Asheville, NC. The park had nut and fruit trees and visitors were able to pick whatever they wanted. Something like this would be nice to have here.

Adjournment: 8:29 p.m.