

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Call to Order: 7:06 p.m.

Present: Bachalis, Menzel, Murphy, Carr

Excused: Hozick, Cafiso-Caruso, Matro, Crowley, Campos

Town Council Liason: Absent

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Joseph Berenato

Pledge of Allegiance

Dispense with Regular Order of Business –

Return to Regular Order of Business

Approval of June 2021 Minutes – Tabled until August meeting

Correspondence

Committee Reports

- Town Council – Dan Bachalis; The Town approved the 2021 budget with no new tax hikes; 48% of Town residents are fully vaccinated and 55% have at least 1 of the 2 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine; the 2021-2022 school year has a start date of August 26th; renovations to the tennis courts located at the Middle School will include pickleball courts and new lighting; Nancy Whittenberg, the Director of the Pinelands Commission passed away, she was a fantastic advocate for the pine barrens.
- Land Use Board – No report.
- Lake Water – Dan Bachalis; The committee went out to see what could be done with the existing clean flow and the process will continue; Sept./Oct. update with Stockton to continue their study.
- Green Committee – Amy Menzel; The community garden is doing well; there will be some children’s workshops held in late July and August; the committee is waiting for the Sustainable New Jersey application to be returned for revisions; Green Day will be Saturday, Oct. 2.
- Bike Advisory – Alicia Murphy; There was no meeting held in June; the committee is looking to hold the bike rodeo in the fall; the American Cancer Society bike ride to Atlantic city will be held on Sept. 19; they are working on a plan to get a fix it station.
- Parks & Rec – Dan Bachalis; The Columbus Park plaques should be done next month; they are cooperating with the Mayor to have all of the Town signs look alike; Boy Scout Eagle projects are being discussed; Rain garden looks pretty good this year; the basketball courts on 11th Street are being fixed up.
- Great Egg Harbor River – Dan Bachalis; no report, business as usual to clean up the river.

Selected Work Plan Items

1. CFMP – update Dan Bachalis; The Urban Forest Connection webinars are held once a month on the same day as our meetings; Tree Keepers NJ Tree Foundation has 4 CEU courses available, 1 in person and 3 virtual; NJ Shade Tree conference – hoping it will be held this year in October.
 - a. Tree Bank – visited with Scott Rivera and the trees are doing very well and they look strong. The Salem Oak looks good.
 - b. AAR 2020
 - c. Tree City USA – designation was last month.
2. NRI – the material was sent to ARH and they are currently checking it and connecting the right maps; hoping to have the copies soon.
3. Single-Use Plastics – leviathan continues to grow; May 2022 is the statewide bag ban; there is some good information at njnoplastics.org.
4. Open Space Inventory and Plan – items 1, 2, and 3 under the work plan items are moving along to be taken off the list; Bob Vettese has been working with ARH to update the map to get it approved by the DEP and hope to have it done by the end of the year.

Tree Removal Applications

1. Eric/Adrienne Weiss, 565 Greenwood Drive. One tree (oak), no replacement. Approved by Chair, tree completely dead.
2. Edward Wuillermin, 894 Ninth Street. Three trees, no replacement. Approved by Chair, all 3 trees dead.
3. Lois Morano, 11 Lakeshore Drive. Three trees (one street tree), no replacement. Roots lifting sidewalk on one tree and 2 trees are leaning. No one else present saw the trees. Motion to approve: Bachalis; second: Carr; approved 4-0.
4. Hometown Heritage LLC (Angela Donio, owner) for 317 12th Street. One tree, no replacement. Installing fence. Motion to approve: Menzel; second: Bachalis; approved 4-0.
5. Steven Pinard, 250 Lakeview Avenue. Two street trees (Callery Pear), no replacement. One dead, other lifting sidewalk. Approved by Chair.

New Business

1. Commissioner Bachalis spoke about the Urban Forest Connection Webinar on pruning practices. He feels this is very pertinent to the Commission; discusses systematic pruning cycles; also asks if the Emergency Response Plan involves trees and Dan thinks the commission needs to take a look at the Town's plan.
2. Commissioner Menzel mentioned that the Sustainable Jersey Atlantic-Cape Hub will be holding an event on August 10th at 5:30 p.m. at the Linwood Arboretum. The topic of this event is trees.
3. Commissioner Menzel said that the ACUA is hosting a summer litter challenge between 8/15 and 8/29 with a chance to win a mini grant. Teams of 15 people or less do clean-ups and report the bags of trash they collect to the ACUA. ACUA will then determine the winner by the amount of trash collected; 1st place - \$500 grant; 2nd place - \$300 grant; 3rd place - \$100 grant; special \$100 grant goes to the strangest litter find.

4. Commissioner Bachalis noted that we are invited to continue with the Community Energy Challenge.

Adjournment: 7:35 p.m.