

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Call to Order: 7:04 p.m.

Present: Bachalis, Menzel, Matro, Caruso-Cafiso, Murphy, Dr. Hozick

Excused: Carr, Campos, Crowley

Town Council Liaison: Jonathan Oliva

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Joseph Berenato

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of July 2021 Minutes – Tabled until November meeting.

Correspondence

Committee Reports

- Town Council – Jonathan Oliva; The Town has a number of upcoming events. Downtown Trick or Treating will be held on 10/23/21 at 2:00 p.m. The Halloween parade will be held on 10/27/21 at 7:00 p.m. Trick or Treat will be on 10/31/21 from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Election Day is November 2. Early voting will be held from 10/23/21-10/31/21 at 310 Bellevue Ave. The hours will be Monday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. and Sunday's from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Anyone in Atlantic County will be able to do early voting, this is not a paper ballot or provisional voting it is regular electronic voting. If any resident received a vote by mail ballot, they must vote that way this year. The Town has hired a new Police Officer, Richard Carpo, who comes to us from Egg Harbor City. We also have a new Construction Code Official, Frank Sacco. The Hammonton Lake will be stocked between 10/14/21 and 10/20/21. The Utility Dept. has been testing the new Vac Truck. They will continue to work on sewer lines for the remainder of this year and then will move onto storm drains beginning during the 1st quarter of next year.
- Land Use Board – Dr. Hozick; No report, the board will meet next week.
- Lake Water – Bachalis; The Lake Water Committee met 10/12/21 via Zoom. There was a presentation from Cingeta Corp. regarding farm and aquatic herbicides and the effects they have on wildlife & plants. Robert Vettese and Dan submitted a grant to Atlantic City Electric for Green Infrastructure for the SGROS ditch that feeds into the lake. This is for a design grant to help better the contour of the slope. The Board will work with the County, Town & residents to get a grant for more green infrastructure management.
- Great Egg Harbor River Council – The last meeting was held aboard the Duke of Fluke boat.
- Green Committee – Amy Menzel; There has been a lot of good feedback regard Green Day. The committee is hoping to keep the new location moving forward. There were about 100 toys donated and 25 lbs. of plastic bags collected. There was also about 60 lbs. of denim collected and sent to be recycled into insulation.

- Bike Advisory – Murphy; The committee will meet on 10/28/21.
- Parks & Rec – Caruso-Cafiso; Work is being done to improve the basketball courts on 11th Street. This year there have been more soccer sign-ups. An architect has been hired for the lake. The Committee has approved all use of facility requests. There was some graffiti at the Kiwanis Pavilion that was quickly taken care of.

Selected Work Plan Items

1. Training – Shade Tree Conference, members have been registered; ANJEC – Members have not yet been registered but there is still time. All sessions are via Zoom; UFC webinar – This was held on 10/13/21 on the topic of urban trees & stormwater. Dan has slides that he will send out. There are no other webinars until January.
2. Single-Use Plastics – The Leviathan was left at Veteran’s Park because it was unable to be taken down on Green Day. The Mayor has allowed the committee to keep it there for a while and it is scheduled to be removed on 10/24 with the hope of relocating it to the old train station.
3. Green Building/Sustainability Master Plan Element status – The draft is almost ready for review, hopefully by next week.
4. Open Space Plan – Dan, Terri and Dr. Hozick will be meeting via Zoom on 10/26/21 at 7:00 p.m.
5. H.O.P.E. collaborations
 - a. Green Day 2021 – see above
 - b. Stormwater Management, green infrastructure (Lake Water Quality Committee)
 - i. On 10/25/21 there will be a rain garden clean up if anyone is available to assist.
 - ii. Grants – previously discussed.

Tree Removal Applications

1. Jose Cordero, 625 Passmore. One tree, no replacement, termite infestation. Motion to approve: Menzel; Second: Caruso-Cafiso; Approved 5-0; Dr. Hozick abstained.
2. John Bertino, 202 Grape Street. One tree, no replacement, dying, rotting. Motion to approve: Matro; Second: Caruso-Cafiso; Approved 5-0; Dr. Hozick abstained.
3. John & Janice Grasso, 376 S 1st Road. One tree, no replacement, tree is dead. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Matro; approved 6-0.
4. Jeff Young, 322 W Orchard Street. One street tree, no replacement, tree is dead. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Dr. Hozick; approved 6-0.
5. Lacey Lake, 521 Railway. One tree, no replacement, tree is dead. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Murphy; approved 5-0; Dr. Hozick abstained.
6. Isael Lopez, 313 13th Street. One tree, no replacement, installing solar. The tree is located across the street, not his tree. Can’t take action, no vote, application not valid.
7. Genoveva Ramos, 650 9th Street. Approximately 100 trees, no replacement, clearing land to create garden area. Motion to table: Caruso-Cafiso; Second:

- Menzel. Vote 6-0 to table for further investigation. Discussion regarding the stream at the back of the property and if the trees are removed does a possible buffer need to be put in place. Dr. Hozick will look into buffers & agriculture land use.
8. John Zinna, 528 Passmore. One street tree, no replacement, tree is dead. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Matro; Approved 5-0; Dr. Hozick abstained.

New Business

1. Dr. Hozick had a request from his neighbor on permits to take down dead trees and the tree removal company suggested another street tree also needed to come down because it was a hazard. Dr. Hozick approved the tree on the spot and it has been removed.
2. Dan mentioned the possibility of a grant for energy projects and programs. There are grants available for \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000 and \$50,000. One interesting project idea is a device that puts emergency vehicles in standby mode while stopped at a scene and they are left running for long periods of time.
3. Menzel mentioned that the ACUA annual recycle art contest is running now through 10/23/21. Entries can be dropped of at Libraries in Atlantic County.

Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.