

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Call to Order: 7:06 p.m.

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

Excused: Hozick, Carr, Campos, Crowley

Town Council Liaison: Jonathan Oliva

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Joseph Berenato

Others present: Patrick Fonte

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of July 2021 Minutes – Motion to Approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Menzel; Minutes approved.

Correspondence

- The Commission has received the bi-monthly bulletin from the Shade Tree Commission.
- The annual conference will be held on October 22.

Committee Reports

- Town Council – Jonathan Oliva; At the last Town Council meeting held on August 26, the final publications to approve the Joint Municipal Court was unanimously approved. The Puerto Rican Civic Association Festival was held on August 29th. September is Spanish Heritage month. The Town-wide yard sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Third Thursday will be held on 9/16 and the theme this month will be Hispanic Heritage/Fiesta. The Town hired a new Police Officer who started on 9/4. The Police Department now has 5 new hybrid police vehicles. Kids are now back in school and masks are required. The Town received a new vac truck for storm and sewer. There will be a meeting with ARH to make revisions to the Master Plan and the Town hopes to have another draft for the next meeting.
- Land Use Board – Last weeks meeting was cancelled, the next meeting will possibly be held in October.
- Lake Water – The next meeting will be held next week. They are currently working on a new grant for Bass Pro Shops.
- Green Committee – Amy Menzel; The committee is focused on Green Day planning; Green day will be held on October 2 from noon until 4 p.m. with a rain date for October 3.
- Bike Advisory – Alicia Murphy; No meeting was held. The bike-a-thon for the American Cancer Society will be held next Sunday, 9/19.
- Parks & Rec – No report.
- Great Egg Harbor River – No report.

Selected Work Plan Items

1. CFMP – Amy and Dan went to the Niedoba property 2 weeks ago to dig up some trees. Some of the varieties they were able to get included holly, maple, red cedar, cherry, fern, sassafras, spruce and blueberry bushes. They will try to go back again. Most of the trees are doing well.
2. NRI – no report.
3. Single-Use Plastics – There is a tentative work date scheduled for Monday, Sept. 13th from 10:00 a.m. until noon.
4. Green Building/Sustainability Master Plan Element status – see update under Town Council report.
5. H.O.P.E. collaborations
 - a. Green Day 2021, October 2 (Green Committee)
 - b. Stormwater Management, green infrastructure (Lake Water Quality Committee)

Tree Removal Applications

1. Elisha Brescia, 425 Line Street, 1 tree, no replacement. Motion to approve: Matro; Second: Caruso-Cafiso. Approved 5-0.
2. Tomlin/Crescenzo, 317 Winding Way, 1 tree, no replacement, installing solar. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Murphy. Approved 5-0.
3. William Mortellite, 313 Winding Way, 1 tree, no replacement, neighbor installing solar. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Matro. Approved 4-0, Bachalis abstained.
4. Patrick Fonte, 335 S. 3rd Street, 1 tree, no replacement. Mr. Fonte was present and stated that the Town was supposed to remove the tree when the road was widened a couple years ago but never did. He was asking why the tree was marked but never removed. Mr. Fonte stated that he has e-mailed Mr. Vettese and Scott Rivera and no-one has responded. Commissioner Bachalis informed Mr. Fonte that he could not speak for the Town and was not sure if they would be removing the tree. Atlantic City Electric will top the tree below the wires and Mr. Fonte will have the rest of the tree removed. Motion to approve: Menzel; Second: Matro. Approved 5-0.
5. Antimo Guadiano, 30 S. Madison Avenue, 2 trees, no replacement. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Menzel. Approved 5-0.
6. Bernadette/Samuel Rodio, 45 N. 4th Street, 1 tree, no replacement. Approved by Chairperson.
7. Edward Marinelli, 322 N. 4th Street, 1 tree, 1 replacement. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Murphy. Approved 5-0

New Business - No new business.

Adjournment: 8:01 p.m.