

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Call to Order by Councilman Oliva: 7:03 p.m.

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

Absent: Carr, Campos, Murphy

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Joseph Berenato

Pledge of Allegiance

Selection of 2022 Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson

Chairperson: Dr. Hozik nominates Bachalis; Matro seconds, approved by acclamation.

Vice Chairperson: Dr. Hozik nominates Caruso-Cafiso; Menzel seconds, approved by acclamation.

Dispense with Regular Order of Business: Motion: Dr. Hozik, Second: Caruso-Cafiso; approved by acclamation.

2022 Mullica Watershed Ambassador Paul Signore: Introduced by Menzel. Paul helped to organize the December Lake clean-up and is interested in a partnership with the Commission for invasive species removal. Paul spoke about his background as a Marine Science educator for 6 years. He is the current Watershed Ambassador for the Mullica region. He is excited to work with the Town on future clean-up projects. His e-mail is wma14.njwap@gmail.com.

Return to Regular Order of Business: Motion: Caruso-Cafiso, Second: Crowley; approved by acclamation.

Correspondence

Committee Reports

- Town Council – Oliva; Town Council held their reorganization meeting on Jan. 5th. Mayor DiDonato was sworn in and is the longest running Mayor in Town history. Councilman Gribbin was sworn in as Deputy Mayor. Also sworn in were Councilpersons Wuillermin and Oliva; Malinsky as Town Solicitor, Bob Vettese as Public Works Manager and ARH as the Town Engineer. At the December Council meeting Andrea Effinger retired after 36 years and Councilman Giraldo said goodbye and was sworn in as Atlantic County Clerk on 1/1/22.
- Land Use Board – Dr. Hozik; No report, next meeting will be held 1/19.
- Lake Water – Bachalis; Meeting was held on 1/11. Bachalis was appointed Chair and John Keenan was appointed Vice-Chair. The committee voted to advise the Mayor and Council of unauthorized lake lowering and also to delay the application for aquatic herbicides at the lake.
- Great Egg Harbor River Council – Bachalis; No report.

- Green Committee – Amy Menzel; The committee held a clean-up at the Lake in December. Money was raised for the committee by holding a workshop for wreath making and selling recycled ornaments. Window clings will be given to green businesses in Town for 2022. There are still more beds to be replaced at the community garden. The Sustainable Jersey recertification is in February.
- Bike Advisory – Bachalis; There will be a bike rodeo in May for National Bike month; details to follow.
- Parks & Rec – Caruso-Cafiso; There is concern about insurance for the proposed skate park. The lake will be sprayed in March. The turf field planning is moving forward. Kramer Beverage is going to expand their camera to cover part of 11th Street.

Tree Removal Applications

1. Mike & Debbie Ein, 157 Brynmaur Ave. Two trees, two replacements. Motion: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Crowley; Approved 6-0.
2. Mimi Vaccarella. 458 Bellevue Ave. One tree, no replacement. Motion: Matro; Second: Hozik; approved 6-0.
3. Jason Michelin, 500 French St. Three trees, three replacements. Motion: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Hozik; Matro abstained; Approved 5-0.
4. Michael Pavesi, 32 N 4th St. Two trees, no replacement. Motion: Caruso-Cafiso; Second: Crowley; Approved 6-0.
5. Jim Pasquale, 133 Batchelor Lane. One tree, no replacement. Motion: Hozik; Second: Menzel; Approved 6-0.
6. Brian Gazzara, 495 S Chew Rd. Two trees too close to house. Motion: Matro; Second: Caruso-Cafiso; Approved 6-0.
7. Town of Hammonton/DOT, 500-508 Bellevue. One tree. Approved by Chairperson Bachalis.

New Business

1. 2022 Work Plan
 - a. Need Council support to pass dedication by rider resolution.
 - b. Bachalis started the application.
 - c. Community Forest Master Plan update to be started mid-year.
 - d. Need to have Mickey Riggins come check the trees and give a review to the DEP on behalf of the Town/Environmental Commission in the Spring (April).
 - e. Work on getting material translated to Spanish.
 - f. Ongoing training.

Motion to approve: Hozik; Second: Caruso-Cafiso; approved, adopt work plan.

Adjournment: 8:54 p.m.