

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Call to Order: 7:04 p.m.

Present: Bachalis, Crowley, Menzel, Murphy

Absent: Campos, Carr, Caruso-Cafiso, Hozik, Matro

Town Council Liaison: Councilman Oliva

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Joseph Berenato

Guests: Matthew Gerwien, Atlantic City Electric; Mike & Linda Monticello

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of May Minutes: Motion: Menzel; Second: Murphy. Approved 4-0.

Committee Reports

- Town Council – Councilman Oliva; May 23rd was the regular Council meeting. Princeton Hydro gave a presentation about the applicability of developing a stormwater utility. Council will discuss what the next steps are at the June meeting. The budget passed the 1st examination, and the 2nd reading will be held at the June meeting. Lake Park work has begun, and the playground area will be closed. Schools will open their parks for the summer from 3 p.m. until dusk but not during the day due to the summer school programs.
- Land Use Board – Hozik; No report.
- Lake Water – Bachalis; See agenda.
- Great Egg Harbor River Council – Bachalis; No report.
- Parks and Recreation – Caruso-Cafiso; No report.
- Green Committee – Amy Menzel; There are 2 beds still available at the Community Garden. Successful event at Kramer Hall on Third Thursday in May. Started garden talks at the garden, the next one will be held on 6/13 at 6 p.m. Children’s Garden workshops will be scheduled. Adopt a Road cleanup is scheduled for 6/25 at 10 a.m. at the library. On 5/22 the Sustainable Jersey recertification was submitted. The Green Market will be held on Third Thursdays on Horton Street from 5-8 p.m. Green Day will be held on 10/1.
- Bike Advisory – Murphy; May 22nd was the 1st Bike Rodeo and it was a success.

Old Business (Work Plan):

1. Green Building/Environmental Sustainability master plan element – no progress.
2. Single-use plastics bag ban is in effect.
 - a. Disposition of Leviathan
 - i. Contest – prizes for top 3 guesses being accepted until June 18th.
 - ii. June 18th at 9 a.m., deconstruction to begin & the counting of bags.

Tree Removal Applications

1. Atlantic City Electric, 555 N. 3rd Street to 623 N. 3rd Street. Road widening project. Motion: Crowley; Second: Murphy. Approved 4-0.
2. Ronald Silipino, 130 S. White Horse Pike. Dead tree. Motion: Murphy; Second: Crowley. Approved 4-0.
3. Ryan Comunale, 611 Jacobs Street. Removal for solar panel installation. Motion: Crowley; Second: Murphy. Approved 4-0.

4. Denise & Leron Brown, 332 French Street. Large tree presents hazard. Motion: Murphy; Second: Menzel. Approved 4-0.
5. Elena Montecillo, 894 Central. Application was partially approved at the May meeting. They appeared to ask Commission to reconsider. Motion to maintain original decision: Menzel; Second: Crowley. Approved 4-0 to affirm the removal of 1 tree but denial of the other 3 trees. An e-mail was sent to the Montecillo's informing them of the appeal process on 6/15.

New Business

1. There was an article in the June 8th Press of Atlantic City regarding the Fix Our Parks initiative looking at the Governor to put more funds into the Parks.

Adjournment: 8:06 p.m.