

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Call to Order: 7:06 p.m.

Present: Bachalis, Caruso-Cafiso, Carr, Hozik, Menzel, Murphy

Absent: Campos, Crowley, Matro

Town Council Liaison:

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Joseph Berenato

Guests: Christopher Smith, Edgar Nest

Pledge of Allegiance

Dispense with Regular Order of Business and move to tree applications: Motion: Hozik;
Second: Cafiso. Approved by acclamation.

Tree Removal Applications

1. Edgar Nest-Mondragon, 741 12th Street. 7 trees, no replacement. Motion: Hozik;
Second: Cafiso. Approved 6-0.
2. Chris Smith, 590 13th Street. 1 tree, no replacement. Motion: Cafiso; Second:
Hozik. Approved 6-0.
3. Chang Qin Zeng, 337 Lakeview Drive. One tree, no replacement. Tabled again
due to Mr. Zeng not appearing before the Commission.
4. Genoveva Ramos, 650 9th Street. Several trees, no replacement. Motion: Hozik;
Second: Cafiso. Approved 6-0.
5. Anthony Argiropoulos, 593 Central Avenue. 2 trees, no replacement. Motion:
Hozik; Second: Carr. Approved 6-0.
6. Jacob Franchetti, 227 S. Liberty Street. 4 trees, no replacement. Motion: Hozik;
Second: Menzel. Approved 6-0.
7. David and Leighann Toth, 19 Gatto Road. 5 trees, no replacement. Motion:
Cafiso; Second: Hozik. Approved 6-0.
8. Stephen Bagliani, 1026 Reading Avenue. 31 trees, 13 replacements. Motion:
Cafiso; Second: Hozik. Approved 6-0.
9. Bernice and Joseph Pezzuto, 230 Rocco Drive. 5 trees, 6 replacements. Motion:
Hozik; Second: Carr. Approved 6-0.
10. Luis Rodriguez, 281 Chestnut Street. 1 tree, no replacement. Motion: Cafiso;
Second: Hozik. Approved 6-0.

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

Correspondence

Committee Reports

- Town Council – No report.

- Land Use Board – Dr. Hozik; Mayor and Council asked the Board to look into the property by the Town garage and community garden for redevelopment. Alternative sites for the community garden are being considered; the garden may be moved but it will not go away. The Board had an extensive discussion on the process of getting development approved by Stuart Wiser.
- Lake Water – Bachalis; The Committee met on 3/8/22 and voted to approve a letter be drafted to the DEP for support of a new dam at the lake. They also discussed seeing the Environmental Commission drafting a letter in support as well. Dr. Hozik stated he would be in favor with conditions. Motion: Cafiso; Second: Hozik. All in favor.
- Great Egg Harbor River Council – Bachalis; No report.
- Green Committee – Amy Menzel; The committee will be rebuilding some of the beds at the garden this year and creating temporary structures for shade. The seed swap event was a success. There is a seed library available online and the committee is planning to visit other seed library locations to see how they operate. On 3/5/22 the clean-up was very successful with over 175 participants and the committee is very appreciative of all the help. The Sustainable Jersey certification is being worked on. Continuing to work with the watershed Ambassador. They are trying to lock in a date for Green Day.
- Bike Advisory – Murphy; The bike rodeo will be held on 5/22/22 at the WES from 10-1.
- Parks & Rec. – Caruso-Cafiso; no report.

Old Business (Work Plan):

1. Dedication by Rider – Dan will follow up with Councilman Oliva to try to get this on Council’s agenda this month.
2. Tree City USA application – working on meeting the requirements.
 - a. Arbor Day seedling – Dan will speak to Charlie to get this sorted out as to what trees are available and at what cost. Dan would like to ask for a resolution to approve distribution and purchase. Motion: Cafiso; Second: Menzel. Approved by acclamation.
3. Green building – Dan and Mike are working on the 3rd draft. They would like to make a pitch to Councilman Oliva to get back to a larger group with this.
4. Community Forestry – There is an extension through 2026.
5. Mid-term review of CSIP plantings - Need to schedule for mid to late April.
6. Complete pollinator garden – possible volunteers to try to get this started. Need to clear and make a safe area to grow. Scheduled for Friday 3/11 from 10 a.m. till noon.
7. Maintain/expand public communications.
 - a. Translate key EC materials to Spanish – will speak to Campos about this.
 - b. Update “Recommended trees” brochure – trying to get a group of Stockton students to work on this and make it a nicer, color brochure.
 - c. Revise tree removal application – may be helpful to document we are in compliance with Town ordinance for in house purposes.

- d. Communications regarding plastic bag ban – May 4th is the bag ban effective date. Dan would like the Commission members to discuss among themselves how to help people prepare for this before the next meeting.
8. H.O.P.E. collaborations
 - a. Update Opens Space and Recreation Plan – Dan wants to discuss with Councilman Oliva to get back on track with this.

New Business

1. Community clean-up on 3/5/22 was discussed earlier.
2. Self-assessment – used by other EV Commissions. Fill out and bring back next month.
3. NJDEP Community Forestry 2021 report – Dan submitted this.
4. Hammonton Gardens review for next month.

Adjournment: 8:54 p.m.