

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.

Present: Bachalis, Bethmann, Caruso-Cafiso, Crowley

Absent: Carr, Campos, Hozik, Menzel, Matro

Town Council Liaison: Jonathan Oliva

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Joe Berenato

Guests: Michael Malinsky, Town Solicitor; Jim and Justin Falisi; Mr. Fognano; Mr. Talavera; Jimmy Matro

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to Dispense with Regular Order of Business: Motion: Cafiso; Second: Crowley; Approved by Acclamation.

Tree Removal Applications for Residents Present:

1. Dennis Talavera, 879 7th Street, lot clearing for new home. Mr. Talavera referred to his contractors Jim and Justin Falisi. Mr. Jim Falisi stated that they have the Pinelands application approval and are in the process of obtaining other needed approvals to begin the clearing. They are looking to clear 39,600 sf of the 6.9 acres for a home and 14,000 sf for a driveway. The home will be a net zero home and solar panels will be installed behind the home. The Commission asked to meet with the contractors on site on 3/9 at 3:00.
2. Nicholas Fognano, 305 Walmer St., 1 tree. Motion to approve: Cafiso; Second: Crowley. Approved by acclamation.

Mr. Malinsky: Mr. Malinsky sent an e-mail to all EC members on December 16, 2022, explaining the authority of the Commission. He stated that the EC serves as an advisory to the Planning Board and wanted to be sure that no members had any questions.

Motion to Return to Regular Order of Business: Cafiso; Second: Crowley. Approved by Acclamation.

Committee Reports

- Town Council – Councilman Oliva; The first reading to bond for a new fire truck was heard. The 2nd reading will be at the March Council meeting and the truck will arrive in 2024 or 2025. The Mazza Muffler building will be demolished and is entirely grant funded. The pickleball/tennis courts will undergo construction in the next 30-45 days and will be ready by mid-summer. The Town is executing an agreement to acquire the Wells Fargo building for \$675,000. The Town is looking for grants to cover the entire cost. The next meeting will be held on 3/27/2023.
- Land Use Board – No report.

- Lake Water – Bachalis; The 15th Annual Clean-up was held on 3/4/23. ACUA gave out about 280 safety shirts, nearly double the attendance from last year. There were people from Galloway, Medford, Millville, and other areas.
- Great Egg Harbor River Council – No report
- Green Committee – No report.
- Bike Advisory – No report.
- Parks & Rec – Cafiso; All parks are in good shape.

Tree Removal Applications Continued:

3. Edward & Christine Harper, 730 8th Street, 40 trees to build a pole barn. Motion to Approve: Cafiso; Second: Bethmann. Approved by acclamation.
4. Daniel Franchetti, 830 11th Street, 1 tree. Application was amended to remove 2 trees. Motion to Approve: Cafiso; Second: Bethmann. Approved by acclamation.
5. Frank Sacco, 856 12th Street, 1 tree. Motion to Approve: Cafiso; Second: Crowley. Approved by acclamation.
6. William Parkhurst, 890 Central Ave., 2 trees. Mr. Parkhurst removed 1 tree prior to getting approval. Application is being tabled until the homeowner can come in and explain the reason for removing the tree prior to approval. Motion to Table: Cafiso; Second: Crowley. Approval to table by acclamation.

New Business

1. There will be an Arbor Day assembly at the elementary school on the last Friday of April. Commissioner Bethmann and Mickey Riggins to possibly give a presentation. Dan will contact Mickey Riggins to see if he is available to participate. Commission members will need to schedule a bagging event after the trees are picked up and before the assembly on Arbor Day.

Adjournment: 8:04 p.m.