

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

Present: Bachalis, Bethmann, Cafiso, Crowley, Berenato, Niedoba

Absent: Menzel, Hozik, Carr

Town Council Liaison: Jonathan Oliva

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Donald Yamasaki

Guests: Michael Passarella, Matt Gerwien

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Bachalis welcomed Commissioner Bethmann as a full member and Commissioners Berenato and Niedoba as alternates.

Approval of June Minutes: Motion to Approve: Cafiso; Second: Bethmann. Approved by acclamation.

Motion to Dispense with Regular Order of Business: Motion: Bethmann; Second: Cafiso. Approved by acclamation.

Tree Removal Applications:

1. Kimi McBrearty, 425 Valley Ave., 10 trees. Mr. Passarella was present on behalf of Mrs. McBrearty. The commissioners asked for further clarification from the homeowners regarding the plans for an addition. Motion to deny pending new application with plans for the addition attached. Motion: Cafiso; Second: Crowley. DENIED 4-0.
2. Atlantic City Electric, trimming at various locations. Councilman Oliva had a number of questions for ACE representative Matt Gerwien regarding the trimming practices of the company and resident concerns. Councilman Oliva noted that as trees are being trimmed or removed the debris is being left behind. Mr. Gerwien stated that before any work is done in front of a home, all homeowners are notified via a door hanger approximately 30 days prior to start of the work and later the homeowners sign an agreement stating they understand that the company does not remove all debris. They will chip up what they can and whatever is left will be cut into manageable size pieces and left for the homeowner to dispose of. If any homeowner does not agree to the policies ACE either does not remove the tree or they trim it to the best of their ability. Motion to approve: Cafiso; Second: Bethmann. Approved by acclamation.
3. Laurie Vasquez, 17 Lakeshore Dr., 8 trees. Motion to approve: Bethmann; Second: Crowley. Approved by acclamation.
4. Dennis Santora, 817 Oakwood Dr., 1 tree. Motion to deny: Bethmann; Second: Cafiso. Denied by acclamation.

5. Carl Barbatto, 24 S. Monroe Ave., 1 tree. Motion to approve: Cafiso; Second: Bethmann. Approved by acclamation.
6. Martha Gorski, 212 Grape Street., 1 tree. Motion to approve: Cafiso; Second: Crowley. Approved by acclamation.
7. Edward Williamson, 893 8th St., 1 tree. Pre-approved.
8. Russell Duvilla, 1 Kings Lane, 1 tree. Motion to approve: Bethmann; Second: Crowley. Approved by acclamation.
9. ECS Mid-Atlantic, 287 S. White Horse Pike, possible multiple trees. Pre-approval by Chair.

Committee Reports

- Town Council – Oliva; Council held a special meeting on 9/11/23 to approve moving forward to clean and spray the lake. The road program was approved at the August meeting and some improvements have already begun.
- Land Use Board – No report.
- Lake Water – Bachalis; The meeting was held on 9/12/23. There was a discussion on the Dubois report about the lake. NJDEP and Pinelands discussions to proceed on the lake.
- Great Egg Harbor River Council – No report
- Green Committee – No report.
- Bike Advisory – No report.
- Parks & Recreation – Cafiso. The pickleball/tennis courts are now open. The turf field colors are being stitched into the field. All use of facility forms were approved.

Old Business

1. Pollinator garden – meeting to be rescheduled.
2. Open Space plan – meeting to be rescheduled.
3. Tree ordinance revision work group – Meeting scheduled for 9/20 at 7 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room at Town Hall.

New Business

1. The green day festival will be held on 11/4 from 12-4 at Veterans Park.
2. Tree Bank – Commissioners Bachalis, Crowley and Bethmann met with Scott Rivera & Bob Vettese regarding the best way to use the trees. Scott suggested planting them at the following locations: Centennial Drive town owned property, Jamestown Blvd town lot, along the street at the dog park, 7th Street by the back soccer lot, and in the open space & grave area by the Canoe Club at Lake Park.

Adjournment: 8:43 p.m.