

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Call to Order: 7:01 p.m.

Present: Bethmann, Crowley, Carr, Hozik, Menzel, Berenato, Niedoba, Bachalis

Absent: Cafiso

Town Council:

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Donald Yamasaki

Guests: Attorney Keith Davis, Jim Wheel from Infinity, and Zeke Cullin from Mid-Atlantic Engineers all for Polyvel Solar; Sam Ramirez, resident for tree application.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to Approve the April Minutes: Motion: Menzel; Second: Bachalis. Approved 2-0, Bethmann & Crowley abstained.

Committee Reports

- Town Council – Rodio; No report.
- Land Use Board – Hozik; No report.
- Green Committee – Menzel; The community garden opened on 4/20/24 and is looking good. All beds are rented out. There are 3 community beds used for food for the food banks & food pantries. The shed is going to be painted. On June 4th the Friday markets located on Horton Steet will start. June 15 is the adopt a road cleanup.
- Parks & Recreation – Cafiso; No report.

Tree Removal Applications:

1. Debra McCabe, 225 Price Street. Motion to approve: Menzel; Second: Carr. Approved 6-0
2. Jesus and Candice Torres, 636 11th Street. Motion to approve: Crowley; Second: Bethmann. Approved 6-0.
3. Richard DiMeglio, 741 Woodlawn Avenue. Motion to approve: Carr; Second: Menzel. Approved 6-0.
4. Paul Brosius, 777 N. 1st Road. The tree is under 20” in diameter and was approved.
5. Carnesale Funeral Home c/o Linda Bucci, Corner of 3rd & Peach. Motion to approve: Bethmann; Second: Crowley. Approved 6-0.
6. Tino Catania, 109 Forest Drive. Motion to approve: Bethmann; Second” Carr. Approved 6-0.
7. Lee Anne Domenico, 10 Kay Drive. Motion to approve: Crowley; Second: Menzel. Abstained: Bethmann, Hozik & Bachalis. Approved 3-0.
8. Tucker, 218 Lincoln. The trees in question appear to be located on the property of 218A Line Street. Denied by Chairman.

9. Jennings, 311 Line St. The tree is located on the north side of the house and does not appear to be in the was of solar on the roof. Niedoba also believes the tree is located on the property of 140 Lincoln Street. Denied.

2024 Actions

1. Arbor Day recap: Mickey Riggins gave a great presentation. The 2nd annual poster contest posters were due on 5-13. The awards ceremony will be held at the library on 5/29 at 7 pm. The DPW dept. and Scott Rivera planted the Salem Oak at the Oak Grove Cemetery. There will be a formal dedication ceremony in October, the exact date is TBD. Mike Jaffe made a donation for tree planting to Allies in Caring and there will be a dedication ceremony held on 5/24.
2. Green Building/Environmental Sustainability Master Plan element. Motion to send to the Land Use Board for inclusion in the Master Plan: Carr; Second: Bethmann. Approved 6-0.
3. CFMP development: Needs to be updated. There is an extension until the end of 2025.
4. Tree protection ordinance: The commission will be reviewing the draft ordinance for the June Council meeting. Commissioner Bachalis does not agree with the new proposed ordinance sent to the commission for consideration and he believes it needs a lot of work. The EC has been granted the powers of the Shade Tree Commission and the proposed ordinance would remove those powers from the EC.

Adjournment: 9:32 p.m.