

Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Minutes – 12/19/2016

Members in attendance: Ed Alter, Bob Cinek, Sachiko Goodyear, Meredith Kates, Elizabeth Snieckus, Scott Raymond, Jack Stubbs, Tom Wiseman.

Members absent: Ken Barber, Teresa Pendergast

Guests: Adam Tate

Meeting open: 7:00 pm

I. General Business:

- a. Adopted minutes from 11/16/2016 meeting** - No further action required.
- b. Membership** – Borough Reorganization meeting is to be held January 7, 2017, 1:00 pm at Borough Hall. Scott Raymond is to be reappointed as a full EC Member, Ed Alter is to be moved from Alternate to Full Member, resident Adam Tate is to be appointed as a new Member, and resident Nick Orlando is to be appointed as an Alternate Member.
- c. Budget** – Meredith Kates and Scott Raymond are working on getting monthly statements from Jon DeJoseph. The EC will renew the ANJEC membership for 2017, with remaining budget funds.

II. Correspondence – US Mail & Email:

- a. US Mail** – EC received via certified mail, notice of a law suit from a resident who tripped on a landscape planting on Town property, and sustained a foot injury.

III. Committee Updates – Tree Maintenance:

- a. NJ Transit R.O.W. Tree Damage** – NJ Transit has denied Hillsdale's claim, for restitution of plant material killed by over spraying of herbicides adjacent to the rail lines within the Borough, since the plant damage is on Railroad R.O.W. property, and will not we.
- b. Hillsdale Schools Tree Maintenance Plan** – Frank Pizzella to update the EC at future meeting.
- c. Tree Bank Funds** – Borough Administrator Jon DeJoseph, has indicated that budget updates will be provided to the EC as new developer commitments are made, rather than on a monthly basis. The EC had previously requested monthly updates.

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IV. Committee Update – Schools:

- a. **Smith School** – Earth Fair to be held in June. PTA has requested that attendees bring their own bags (no plastic bags). EC would like to see the Scouts do an Environmental Series for the event. EC Member Sachiko Goodyear has given a presentation on plastic pollution to the Cub Scouts and will do so again in 2017.

V. Committee Update - Planning and Zoning: No new applications for review this time.

- a. **PSE&G Application** – Jon DeJoseph would like to EC to discuss with PSE&G, irrigation and maintenance of the new planting within the power station upgrades. The proposed site meeting with PSE&G representatives has been postponed due to scheduling conflicts. Andrew Lojek, PSEG project manager, has requested a “wish list” of items the EC would like them to address. The EC would like to PSE&G to provide street trees throughout the Hillsdale Environmental Zone, which would need to be coordinated with individual business owners in the Zone.
- b. **Anthony Merlano** – New application will be upcoming.

VI. Outreach Events:

- a. **SUEZ (formerly United Water) Reservoir Walkway** – Ed Alter and Frank Pizzella may do a presentation to the Watershed Review Board, regarding the trail plans. Ed Alter to attend a site walk with Hillsdale Mayor and SUEZ representatives this coming Friday, December 23, regarding path clearing. Woodcliff Lake is currently receiving engineering quotes for site work on the trail.

VII. Additional Items:

- a. **EC Budget Management** – Chair Meredith Kates and Vice-Chair do discuss, budget funds not used in 2016 will not carry over to 2017.
- b. **Beechwood Sign Repair** – Meredith Kates has a new copy of the Beechwood Trail Map available to be installed when plexiglass cover is repaired by DPW.
- c. **Deer overpopulation** – NY Times article regarding the issue cannot be posted on Hillsdale website due to copyright issues. **Bob Cinek** hopes to post a link to the article instead, on the EC website.
- d. **Youth Liaison** – Frank Pizzella has suggested that he would like to have a youth liaison to the Borough Council.
- e. **Commission Goals for 2017** – The Mayor has requested that the EC set 3 goals for the 2017 year, such as preservation of open space, etc., to foster efficiency and completion of Commission work.

Meeting adjourned: 7:40 pm

Next meeting: January 16, 7:00 pm