

HILLSDALE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MEETING

FEBRUARY 6, 2014

7:00 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE: CHAIRWOMAN KATES, VICE CHAIRWOMAN BIENER, EC MEMBERS ELIZABETH SNIECKUS, STEFANIE BREUER, LAURA CALABRIA, COUNCIL LIASION PIZELLA.

PLANNING BOARD:

Questions: The EC asked if the 300 foot C-1 Waterway ruling applied to all properties in Hillsdale, whether it be residential, commercial or industrial. The answer to that question was yes. In addition, the EC asked, in this case with regard to the Walsky property, if the applicant no longer sought relief from the Planning Board, would the EC still be notified and copied on plans. The answer to this question is also yes, as any site plan application received by the borough goes through the same referral process, variances or not. That said, the EC would be notified the same way you are now. The EC has the same powers, albeit maybe a little less leverage. But generally speaking all developers will cede to alteration on plant materials, tree sizes, numbers of planting, etc.

Cingular: Liz visited the residential property behind the DPW, where the new proposed Cingular cell tower is being considered. She reported that there really is no place to create a buffer or screen for neighbors. Furthermore, the Commission has not ruled out the possibility of suggesting an “artificial tree” type cell tower and is looking into whether this is even a consideration on the size cell tower that is being considered for this site.

ANJEC SEMINAR:

The Chair mentioned that the yearly ANJEC training for commissioners will be held on March 1st. This one is being held in Morristown and is free for members to attend.

OUTREACH:

County Clean-Up: Is confirmed to take place on April 26th. Commission to decide time of 9-1 or 10-1. The Vice Chair is going to follow up with the Bergen County Utilities to obtain the necessary bags and gloves. Furthermore, she will also try and obtain maps that were previous used from Tom Wiseman. Grace Biener is the organizer.

Earth Day Fair: We are attempting to hold this fair on April 27th. The Commission is attempting to get all the necessary permits and approvals in order to hold this fair. The Bee Hive will be involved as an advisory of past Earth Day Fairs. If approved, the event would take place in Veteran’s Park. Meredith Kates to coordinate.

COUNCIL LIASION PARTICIPATION:

Green Fair: Councilman Pizzella will reconfirm for the Commission that both profit and non-profit vendors can take part.

Arbor Day- Jack will be contacted to provide information to Frank to start process of ordering trees with Administrator. Stefanie will coordinate with schools. Question if tree fund should/can cover this (see discussion below) since depleted since replanting and need to save funds for future plantings.

Email: Councilman Pizzella understood the need for a valid EC email address within the borough. Councilman Pizzella will check with Sue Witkowski and advise outcome in finally obtaining a working borough EC email address and correcting the current address.

Budget: Councilman Pizzella was present for a discussion among Commission members whether to propose increasing our budget to \$1,000.00. annually. In addition to requiring a budget increase on its own merits, the Commission went on to explain that if the Arbor Day money comes out of the EC's budget, (a question we are still seeking an answer to), then there is no question as to why the Commission would require such an increase. Tree Fund is significantly less than last year; thus if funds are taken from Tree Fund for Arbor Day we need to ensure a baseline for future borough planting needs (Follow up with Council and Administrator)

GRANTS:

The Open Space Stewardship Grant: Liz spoke eloquently regarding the fact that our borough has 7 active parks and only two passive ones. (Two passive parks being Beechwood Trail and Veteran's Park.) That said, Liz made a very strong case as to why the borough should support the EC's applying for this grant. It has been suggested that the EC could use the whole \$1,500.00 for the materials to repair the dilapidated trail, and all of the labor would be provided solely by volunteers. It was suggested that we put together an organized and thoughtful presentation to be put forth before the M&C at the March 4th meeting, to be voted on at their March 11th meeting. We will need a subgroup to meet and plan before the next EC meeting. Councilman Pizzella will follow up on adding EC grant to Council meeting agenda.

BLOG:

Stephanie advised that she is progressing in getting that blog up and running and would like to send some of the language over to the Chair for her review and approval.

SUSTAINABLE NJ:

Council Liaison Pizzella advised that he is still getting quite a few emails from Sustainable New Jersey, even in light of the fact that the borough is not proceeding in its recertification. The Commission advised that there is no harm in receiving these emails as they are for informational purposes and require no response.

Next EC meeting to be held on March 6th, 2014.

Meeting adjourned.