

## **Hillsdale Environmental Commission**

### **Minutes – 6/19/2017**

**Members in attendance:** Ed Alter, Meredith Kates, Scott Raymond, Elizabeth Snieckus, Adam Tate

**Members absent:** Bob Cinek, Sachiko Goodyear, Jack Stubbs, Tom Wiseman

**Guests:** EC Liaison Frank Pizzella

**Meeting open:** 7:02 pm

#### **I. General Business:**

- a. Adopted minutes from 5/15/2017 meeting** - No further action required.
- b. Correspondence, email and follow up**
  - 1. Due to concerns about slow, or no response to DPW correspondence and inquiries, residents are asking the Environmental Commission to address their concerns. Several recent requests for tree evaluation and tree work, have been made to EC Vice Chair Scott Raymond, as well as Borough Administrator, Jon DeJoseph. EC Chair, Meredith Kates, has asked Liaison Frank Pizzella to contact both Administrator Jon DeJoseph, and Borough Engineer Chris Statile, to clarify who is responsible to receive and address resident inquiries, as well as how to proceed. We need clarification on boundaries regarding the EC making tree recommendations to residents.
  - 2. Chair Meredith Kates, was recently contacted by, Angel Nass of Westwood Environmental Advisory Group. He has expressed interest in organizing a multi-town Pascack Valley Earth Day, to possible replace the Green Fair, which will no longer be held in Hillsdale.

#### **II. Municipal Advisory:**

- a. Tree Ordinance** - Review is ongoing.
- b. Emerald Ash Borer Report** – EC Chair Kates, has drafted a summary of the EAB issue and the Hillsdale Environmental Commission's concerns and recommendations in addressing the problem in a responsible manner. The EC hopes to present these recommendations to the Borough Council, at a public Council meeting this summer. Frank Pizzella will submit/introduce EC comments to Mayor this week and ask to put it onto the agenda.

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**III. Planning/Zoning:**

- a. Ely Application** – EC members Adam Tate and Scott Raymond, and Borough Engineer Chris Statile attended a site walkthrough, regarding recommendations for landscaping. The EC has been advised that the underground tanks on the site have been removed.
- b. Golden Orchards (previously Walsky) Property** – Scott Raymond, Tom Wiseman and Elizabeth Snieckus attended a site walkthrough with builder's representatives to review trees to be removed, and where opportunities to save additional trees might be possible.
- c. PSEG** – Scott Raymond, and Elizabeth Snieckus attended a site walkthrough with PSEG representative to review limit of temporary disturbance vs. permanent clearing of trees and vegetation. The EC is still waiting for a revised drawing from PSEG's design team, after our recommendations were submitted to Andrew Lojeck of PSEG.

**IV. Reports/Update Town Events/Advisory:**

- a. Be the Church volunteer clean up** – Pascack Press will be publishing a story about the cleanup, and EC will ask the Mayor to present a commendation to the group for their efforts.
- b. SUEZ Walkway** – Frank Pizzella is to contact Bryant Gonzalez (SUEZ Corporate Attorney, Utility Operations), and Chris Statile, to learn status of possible diamond grinding of plates, for noise reduction on the new road.

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:56 pm

**Next meeting:** July 17, 7:00 pm