

Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Minutes – 3/20/2017

Members in attendance: Ed Alter, Sachiko Goodyear, Meredith Kates, Scott Raymond, Elizabeth Snieckus, Adam Tate.

Members absent: Bob Cinek, Jack Stubbs, Tom Wiseman.

Guests: Liaison Frank Pizzella, Council Member Steven Segalis.

Meeting open: 7:00 pm

I. General Business:

- a. **Adopted minutes from 2/21/2017 meeting** - No further action required.
- b. **Membership** – Mayor is looking for an alternate for the EC. Resident Lakshmi Shah is still interested in the position. EC Alternate Adam Tate may run for borough council, but would also like to remain active with the EC.
- c. **Correspondence – No regular mail. Email access lockout continues to be a problem and we must go through the new tech consultant to address the issue. Since email is currently inaccessible, Sachiko Goodyear suggests posting a notification on our blog, having residents connect /message us on Facebook for immediate response.**
- d. **Budget** – No word on 2017 budget. No update on tree bank account balance.
- e. **Tree Fund** - Street tree planting will not be done this Spring, but will be moved to the 2017 Fall planting season. The Borough will be looking for EC recommendations for 60 trees to be planted throughout Town. Follow up - Scott Raymond and Elizabeth Snieckus to make recommendations.

II. Subcommittee Updates:

a. **Municipal Advisory**

- i. **Emerald Ash Borer** – Arborist Bob Gillis, advises that the first step to combat the Emerald Ash Borer infestation is to hire someone to identify infected trees. Council member John Ruocco informed EC that there is no money in the budget to do so. EC Chair Kates suggests mentioning the urgency of the problem at a council meeting, to make residents aware of the need.
- ii. **Tree Ordinance Status** – Engineer Chris Statile and Borough lawyer have made comments in review of the draft ordinance. It is now under reviewed by an Ordinance Committee. Council member Steven Segalis is on that committee and will be in contact with the EC with any questions he might have.

EC Meeting Minutes - 3/20/2017, continued (page 2 of 3)

- iii. **Deer Management Program** – River Vale is slated to host a discussion of the deer population problem. EC member Bob Cinek hopes to attend.

b. **Planning and Zoning**

- i. **SUEZ (formerly United Water) Walkway** – Tuesday March 21, Hillsdale representatives are to give a presentation to the Watershed Board regarding the walkway and it's benefits to the community. EC member Ed Alter to make comments. A target might be to have a grand opening for the walkway on Bi-state cleanup day.

III. **Spring Events/Partnerships:**

- a. **Bi-State Clean-Up** – Saturday April 29th 10:00am-1:00pm. Tom Wiseman is to update flier information, and Meredith Kates will distribute fliers. Tom is speaking with scouts to participate.
- b. **Green Fair** – Will be held in Oradell this year, not Hillsdale.
- c. **Arbor Day School Activities** – Trees will be donated by Site One Landscape Supply. Tom Wiseman has contacted schools for participation. Meadowbrook School will get a Red Oak to be planted April 28th. George White Middle School has conflicts with testing activities, and so tree donation, type & ceremony dates are yet to be determined. St. John's Academy would like a Plum tree, date, time and location of planting is yet to be determined. Smith School would like an evergreen tree to be planted near the playground, to be planted April 28th at 1:30pm. Scott Raymond will coordinate with DPW for pick up/delivery dates, and on digging holes for ceremonies.
- d. **Eagle Scout Project Request** – Tom Wiseman is assisting Eagle Scout candidate Andrew Ewing who is requesting EC input for an appropriate project suggestion as soon as possible. He turns 18 this Fall and must complete the project before then. Tom Wiseman is in contact with the scout who has some ideas already, for repairs the Beechwood Nature Trail sign, trail cleanup, and repairs. However, the scope of his project may need to be expanded for Boy Scout Commission approval. Meredith Kates suggests removal of toxic RR ties within the Beechwood Park Nature Trail.

IV. **Hillsdale Schools:**

- a. **Smith School Earth Fair** – To be held in June 2017.
- b. **Pascack Valley High School** - 2016 Parking lot construction, shrub plantings in the front parking lot and side parking lots have had significant loss, due to lack of water and extreme heat during the 2016 growing season. Frank Pizzella will provide contact

EC Meeting Minutes - 3/20/2017, continued (page 3 of 3)

information for School Board Liaison Anthony DeRosa, to bring the situation to the Board's attention. Elizabeth Snieckus to follow up with email to Anthony DeRosa.

V. Training:

- a. **ANJEC** – Commissioner's Training, March 25, Cranford, NJ. Adam Tate to attend.
- b. **County Environmental Commission** – March 21, Hackensack, NJ. Adam Tate to attend.
- c. **Deer Seminar** – March 30, River Vale, 7:00pm, Bob Cinek and Ed Alter to attend.
- d. **Clean Water Action** – 31st Annual Conference, Saturday, April 8, Edison, Meredith to attend.

Meeting adjourned: 8:52 pm

Next meeting: April 17, 7:00 pm