

Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Minutes – 9/18/2017

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

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

Guests: Liaison Frank Pizzella

Meeting open: 7:00 pm

I. General Business:

- a. **Adopted minutes from 8/21/2017 meeting** - No further action required.
- b. **Correspondence, email** – Chair Kates received contact from regent college grad with background in sustainable design and environmental architecture. This resident may be interested in participating in the EC. Kates emphasized the need for the EC to encourage residents who may only be able to participate periodically in a capacity such as “friends of the EC” designation; in order to increase the opportunities to implement EC goals.

II. Recent Business – Follow Up:

- a. **EAB presentation** - On Sept. 12, the EC presentation received good feedback from the Borough Council. Liaison Pizzella, requested further clarification of EC recommendations be sent through him, to the Board. The recommendations which Chair Kates consequently sent to Pizzella were as follows:
 - 1. Decide high risk/priority areas for inventory and assessment
 - 2. Put out bids to get a certified arborist to do the inventory and assessment
 - 3. Form a subcommittee of EC, DPW and County representatives, who will oversee progress in addressing the EAB issue
 - 4. Talk to other towns for shared services to address the problem
- b. **Tree Ordinance Status** – The ordinance review committee is in the final stages and are checking with one more professional. Liaison Frank Pizzella will introduce the Tree Ordinance at the next Council meeting in anticipation of the ordinance being adopted. The EC and Liaison spoke of possible sources of revenue/funding for tree maintenance, perhaps an Open Space Tax, which is used in other towns.
- c. **Eagle Scout Update** –
 - 1. Candidate Matthew Advensky – Scott Raymond has informed the EC that the work at Beehood is nearly completed. RR ties have been removed, bat houses have been installed, and benches are to be installed shortly.
 - 2. Candidate Andrew Ewing – Project has been approved, and paper work and team are being put together.
 - 3. Candidate Myron Theilmeier – Has withdrawn, as he has missed necessary deadline for paperwork.

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- d. **SUEZ Walkway** – SUEZ’s representatives continue delays in opening of trail. EC member Ed Alter continues to try to get more information from SUEZ representatives Christie and Gonzales on the project status. EC member Adam Tate, spoke with the Mayor of Park Ridge, who indicated that the project is stalled due to security camera issues in both Park Ridge and Hillsdale. Liaison Frank Pizzella spoke to BCUA (Bergen County Utilities Authority), looking for partners in waste management for the trail.
- e. **Beechwood Park Festival** – Formerly known as Town Day, the event was successful and well attended. The EC hopes to have a bigger presence/greater visibility in coming events, with more accessibility to the participants.
- f. **Be the Church volunteer clean up** – The Borough Council has not yet officially recognized Church’s volunteers for their cleanup work at Beechwood Park. Vice Chair, Scott Raymond will request that Liaison Pizzella ask the Borough Council to prepare a proclamation, in recognition.

III. New Business:

- a. **Borough Arborist** – The EC seeks clarification on the status of a Borough Arborist whose responsibility would be the assessment and management of a tree inventory. Liaison Pizzella will follow up borough administrator and borough engineer for status.
- b. **EC Advisory-** There has been a request for input regarding a bird overpopulation on Broadway. A large street tree with a history of attracting large numbers of birds (possibly Starlings), roosting in the tree canopy. The bird droppings on store front sidewalk areas, is a nuisance and concern for the business owners. Borough Council President has updated that no further action or formal recommendation is asked for, or required by the EC at this time.
- c. **Rec. Dept./EC collaborative committee** – The Recreation board has indicated to EC Chair Kates, their interest in collaborating with the EC to create more opportunities in passive recreation to serve all residents better.
- d. **Schools/Website** – Bob Cinek is to update the EC at a later date.

IV. Planning/Zoning:

- a. **PSEG** – EC is still waiting for feedback from PSEG representatives. Scott Raymond will follow up with Andrew Lojec at PSEG.
- b. **Aeon Gymnastics** – Site Plan application has just been scheduled to be heard.
- c. **31 Morris Ave.** – Resident on corner lot, has received a variance for a 6 foot height fence on his front and side yard. Chair Kates will follow up with Borough Engineer, Chris Statile to let us know if the EC can advise on the matter.
- d. **Site Plan Review** – Chair Kates expressed the need for training more members to be able to review and prepare reports, for Planning Board referrals, going forward.

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V. Training:

- a. ANJEC 2017 Congress** – 44th Annual Environmental Congress will be held Friday, October 13, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM, at Mercer County College Conference Center, West Windsor, NJ. EC Members are invited to attend.

VI. Long Term Projects:

- a. Car Charging Stations** – Tuesday night (Sept. 19), Member Ed Alter will attend an electric car charging station webinar, to see what possible grants, funding, etc., might be available to implement the service. Ed Alter will report back to the EC on the event.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm

Next meeting: October 16, 7:00 pm