

Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Minutes – January 15th, 2018

Members in attendance: Scott Beckman, Bob Cinek, Steve Goodman, Meredith Kates, Scott Raymond, Fred Rubel, Tom Wiseman

Members absent: Ed Alter, Adam Tate

Guests: Council Liason Frank Pizzella

Meeting open: 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order and Reorganization 2018

- a. Nomination and vote for officers** – 2018 officers serving will be Chair Meredith Kates, Vice Chair Scott Raymond and Secretary Bob Cinek.
- b. EC Calendar for 2018** – Meetings continue to be held the 3rd Monday of each month. Two changes accepted to dates for current month and July; dates will be posted on EC website.
- c. Roster and introductions** – Roster of Members was distributed. All members have been sworn in by the Council. Meredith Kates, Adam Tate and Ed Alter were sworn in January 2018. Scott Beckman appointed in place of Sachiko Goodyear whose term expires December 2018. Steve Goodman was appointed in place of Elizabeth Snieckus whose term expires December 2018. Fred Rubel was appointed as Alternate 2 in January 2018. Continuing members are Scott Raymond, Bob Cinek and Tom Wiseman.
- d. Review of Sunshine laws/Procedures/Bylaws** - Members were reminded of requirements regarding sunshine laws and that these requirements apply to emails as well. Newer members were introduced to our website and social media accounts.

II. General Business

- a. Adopted minutes from 12/18/2017 meeting** - No further action required.
- b. Honoring past members** – plans were made to honor the contributions of past members Elizabeth Snieckus and Sachiko Goodyear. This included certificates and thanks from the Council.
- b. Correspondence, email** –
 - 1. ANJEC renewal** (\$350) was received in mail. Scott went over training sessions and the value they have provided in the past.

2. Email received - Leigh Simpson of Brick NJ asks for Hillsdale to consider an ordinance similar to Long Branch ordinance regarding banning single use plastic bags. Frank Pizzella mentioned Council's reluctance to do these things in the past feeling they were State issues. EC to discuss this and various other recommendations like this in next meeting. EC to also discuss plastic bag usage with main stores in town like Shop Rite and Kings.

c. Budget - Scott Raymond gave update on the proposed \$945 2018 budget and is to meet with Jon DeJoseph about the amount. Use of budgets can include work, programs and speakers. Frank Pizzella suggested the EC could ask for a larger budget. Frank also mentioned the town is pursuing several grants and suggested that grants be written by the town and not the EC to avoid setting a precedent as to who writes grants. Frank also mentioned that any members who, as residents, want to join the Economic Development Commission should contact him.

III. Recent Business and Follow up

- a. EAB training in Closter** – EC Members who attended discussed benefit and what they learned. Meredith to reach out to Dr. Beth Ravit at Closter for more information on ArcGIS software and legally sharing software and maps from Rutgers and NJ. Frank to check with Council and town if any ArcGIS mapping is currently available. After Closter, several of our EC members visited PVHS and discovered a number of Ash trees by the road in front of school, some possibly infected and posing future danger at the HS. Frank to ask Council about hiring an Arborist and concern over a holdup while waiting for a grant as the Ash trees pose a possible immediate danger.
- b. Forestry Grant** – Grant application is being processed and any resulting program will be run through the Borough Admin and DPW. Several people (residents) need to be certified for the program and if anyone from the EC is interested they should contact Frank. Frank will also send out information to the EC members regarding what is required.
- c. Tree Ordinance** – No update. A meeting needs to be setup.
- d. Tree Fund** - The EC is waiting to hear from town if tree bank monies can be used for tree maintenance. Scott went over tree bank with newer members.
- e. Beechwood Park Grant** – waiting for more information from Frank.

IV. Community Items – updates and needs

- a. Suez walkway** - Hillsdale in waiting mode as we wait for other towns to finish up
- b. Commendations** – Denise from the Borough Hall is arranging for plaques for Church volunteers who helped at Beechwood cleanup.
- c. Scout Updates** – Matt Advensky completed work at Beechwood and there was a ceremony on January 13th that the Mayor attended. Eagle scout Andrew Ewing has also completed work at Beechwood with the flag pole, a solar light and work on the trail sign. Andrew requested information for the rebuilt information box. For now we will supply him with the old map created by Jack Stubbs.
- d. School update** – nothing new to report by Bob.

V. Planning and Zoning

- a. PSE&G (phase 3)** – Building appears to be 50% erected. Final landscaping to be discussed in mid-February and the EC is waiting for PSE&G landscaping plans. There were concerns raised that too many trees may have been removed at the back of the PSE&G property opening up the view from Queen Court on the other side of the stream.

b. Pending Reviews

1. Leonard and Levy – shift of lot line. EC report submitted.
2. Haglid – 80 Broadway. Change of use. EC report submitted.
3. Mazur – Morris Drive. Followup date needs to be set with Chris.
4. Oriolo. Ruckman Road. Tom to lead. Not currently on town schedule.

VI. Training and Events

- a. ANJEC meeting and training sessions** – Fundamentals, March 17, 9am to 1:30pm.
There will also be sessions for returning (experienced) members. Please be prepared to notify at next meeting if you will be attending.

- b. Sustainable NJ** – Regional meeting January 24th in Glen Rock, 1-6pm.

- c. Northeast Coalition** – meeting January 27th, 1-5pm at Montclair Library. Various workshops

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 pm

Next meeting: February 19th, 7:00 pm