

## **Hillsdale Environmental Commission**

**Minutes:** July 16, 2018

**Members in attendance:** Scott Beckman, Scott Raymond, Steve Goodman, Meredith Kates, Fred Rubel, Adam Tate, Ed Alter

**Members absent:** Tom Wiseman, Bob Cinek

**Guests:**

**Meeting open:** 7:10 pm

### **I. General Business**

- a. **Adopted minutes from 6/18/2018 meeting** - No further action required.
- b. **Email received (7/9/2018)** from Hannah Ainsworth complimenting the HEC for its website and useful information. Hannah Ainsworth was conducting a summer environmental science lesson with elementary school students.
- c. **Email received (6/28/18) from Mark Herzberg of the NJDEP** with an attached Decision Document for the remediation of the Alexander Cleaners Site. The Decision Document identified the remedial alternative for restoration of the Site. The NJDEP also responded to public comments, including comments drafted by the HEC. HEC members still have concerns regarding the implementation and monitoring of the remediation as follows: (a) once the building is removed, will the excavation be covered by a tarp to minimize meteoric water infiltration and limit the spread of the plume; (b) ensure that fill material does not contain toxic heavy metals; (c) nearby wells were not sampled for the contaminants of concern; and (d) handling of demolition debris with respect to possible asbestos and lead contamination. The HEC will continue to monitor the progress of the clean-up and communicate with the NJDEP (through the Borough) to assure resolution of outstanding concerns.

### **II. Municipal Advisory**

- d. **Forestry Grant** – No progress on Community Forestry Grant/EOB – September?
- e. **Tree Ordinance** –Still waiting for new arborist can review its contents.
- f. **Tree Fund** – The tree fund has \$24,485.91 as of the end of April 2018.
- g. **Alexanders Cleaners** – see discussion under I.c.

### **III. Community Items – updates and follow-up**

- a. **Suez walkway** - Suez is now requesting that the NJDEP sign-off on the project.
- b. **Ample Harvest – summer 2018 kickoff** – Monday's at 5:00 pm at Methodist Church. Produce arrives at 12:30 pm. Sample dishes prepared and passed out with recipes (also in Spanish).

- c. **Recycling Issues and Outreach** – Hillsdale recycling is in a state of disarray. No clear guidance on waste segregation. The DPW is having to manually pick non-recyclable trash out of recyclables. Hillsdale may receive penalties for not complying with disposal requirements. Action items and suggestions – (a) prepare demonstration materials for residents for Town Day; (b) speak to Jon DeJoseph about accepted plastics recycling guidelines; (c) Ridgewood has a refrigerator magnet for recycling info. – should Hillsdale? (d) some towns supply recycling bins; (e) Meredith will contact ANJEC to inquire about recycling poster boards and determine consistency with Hillsdale's; and (f) Fred will put together a press release
- d. **Hillsdale Town Day** – Scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up for volunteering.

#### IV. Planning and Zoning

- a. **Aeon Landscaping Walk Through** – Chris and Scott R. had meeting at Aeon fitness to discuss and finalize landscaping requirements.
- b. **333 Washington Avenue** – Ten units to be built. Heavily vegetated with yellow poplar and car parts. Will look into adding more landscaping.

#### V. ERI Development

Fred reported that the ERI presentation to Council went well and the ERI was approved for development by the HEC. Will form sub-committee (Fred and Scott B.) to initiate preparation of a draft document.

#### VI. Advocacy Requests

- c. **ANJEC plastic bag ban** - ANJEC wants a ban on plastic bags.
- d. **Meadowlands Fracked Gas Power Plant** – Bergen Swan put out a letter of non-support for the project. Regarding advocacy, the HEC does not issue letters of support/non-support for impacts not directly affecting Hillsdale.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:40 pm

**Next meeting:** August 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm