

Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes 12-17-18

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

Members absent: Tom Wiseman, Scott Raymond

Liaison : Frank Pizzella

Meeting opened: 7:05pm

1) General Business

- a) Adopted minutes from November 19th 2018 meeting – No further action required.
- b) Newsletter received from Hackensack Riverkeeper – no action.
- c) Membership 2019 – Oaths must be administered for all EC officers due for renewal or switching positions before the January meeting. Oath to be taken at town office, to be sworn in by Denise or available notaries at the office. Frank Pizzella will be back as liaison and will try to attend each meeting or call in advance. Open communication, attendance and advocacy are understood as being essential.
- d) A portion of the January meeting we will be for nominating officers. While officers must be full members, any committee member can vote; this is an open process. All members get a role and the EC is open to suggestions. It was agreed that the calendar for 2019 will remain the same – meetings to be held every third Monday at 7pm at borough hall.
- e) Tree Fund update – We are getting statements for the tree fund which is funded by developers for the planting of new trees. The tree fund name has always been as it is now according to the Borough attorney. He has also stated that there should be no issue or impact with the name on the account including the word 'escrow'. The EC would like to confirm this. Chris Statile has also questioned this since 'escrow' implies a temporary holding. Frank will follow up with all concerned as well as the Mayor and will cc Meredith. Meredith and Ed feel that old documents do not mention the word 'escrow'.
- f) Budget – will be confirmed in January. EC has asked for the same amount. Although it is noted that due to the ERI and possible extra associated costs (oversized copies, etc) that estimated extra costs be added to the budget. A subcommittee was formed to discuss and prepare budget; members to be Scott Raymond, Scott Beckman and Fred Rubel.

2) Committee Updates

- a) **Forestry (maintenance, plantings, trainings, programs)**

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- i) Grant/Arborist – EC unsure of what was accomplished by the arborist; Frank had asked that the info be shared with the EC. Frank to check what was surveyed, notes on the assessment, EAB notes, etc.
 - ii) Plantings - EC questioned why a member of the EC did not shadow. The mayor will reach out to see who dropped the ball. Steve was contacted by the mayor and Steve offered to help again. The EC does not wish to be circumvented in these cases and should be a part of the process. They have been informed about this several times, yet DPW went ahead and planted trees anyway. Scott does have a list of what was planted and where planted.
 - iii) Tree Ordinance – Still not acted upon at this time, council plans to move ahead after the first of the year. EC stresses that this is important to update. Borough Administrator has all drafts. Ed Alter to attend all Ordinance Committee meetings and Frank will advise Ed as to when the meetings will be held. The meetings will probably start after the reorganization.
 - iv) Saplings – to be held week of April 15th. This year we will get 500 saplings. DPW to pick up saplings (4/12), arrange for buckets to store them in, and also deliver to schools on the 15th. EC members will tag them 4/13 between 9am and 10am. We could also arrange for town wide notice that they can be picked up on the 13th from 10am until noon. Any left over can then be brought to the schools for distribution. Bob to email schools on location of the DPW drops offs, probably will be like last year, at front entrances to schools. The EC will also post this on FB, the website and eblast as well.
- b) **Alexanders Cleaners** – no update. Fred did note that the NJ DEP has two other locations listed for underground storage not registered and not closed. The 2 locations are 145 Broadway and 539 Piermont. Frank to talk to BA about course or action (which might include ‘no action’); Frank will cc Chris and Meredith.
- c) **Suez Walkway** – License is in State hands and has been approved by the Watershed Commission. The trail is 3-3/4 miles with the Hillsdale portion being ¾ of a mile at this point. Frank would like to see it in the future plans to connect a walkway from the Suez trail all the way to the library. We do have an easement from PSE&G to allow for the trail to be behind their property. Frank has also applied for a Federal Grant for this project. The town will also pay for some expenses and we hope to be able to use Boy Scout resources as well for the project.
- d) **Sustainable Jersey Hub update** – There was a committee report on Styrofoam recycling and a desire for a collection day by towns. Adam to reach out to Jon DeJoseph to explain and permission to use DPW land for collection. Adam also to check with John Adam on truck rental for transportation of material to see if the Hub will reimburse. It was suggested that communities do an educational outreach on these programs. The EC suggested that a member of the Hub come to a council meeting to educate about this and to hopefully create excitement about it. A discussion followed on composting – possible sale of bins at the DPW, educating homeowners, and having a volunteer composting event. Goal of reducing waste should be paramount and we need council buy-in and education. Frank suggested sending out surveys to see what things interest people in this type of area – what residents would like to see.

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- e) **ERI update** – no progress to report. Fred suggested assembling and incorporating an open space list into the ERI. Ed suggested that if doing this, we should consult the tax maps. In putting together the ERI, the information gathering can be done by anyone; ANJEC guidelines have an outline for how to do this. The final version will be put together by Scott and Fred, It was suggested that we should reach out to high school to see if any student would be interested in assisting.

3) **Planning and Zoning** - 333 Washington Ave – scheduled for 1/23/19

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 pm

Next meeting: January 21st 2019 , 7:00pm