

# Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes January 24, 2019

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

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

**Liaison:** Frank Pizzella (present at meeting)

**Call to order:** 7:05pm

## I. Reorganization

- a) All members administered Oaths of Office prior to the reorganization meeting.
- b) Environmental Commission Membership Roster:
  - Ed Alter
  - Meredith Kates
  - Scott Raymond
  - Steve Goodman
  - Scott Beckman
  - Fred Rubel
  - Jack Stubbs (Emeritus)
  - Adam Tate
  - Bob Cinek (Alternate #1)
  - Tom Wiseman (Alternate #2)
  - Frank Pizzella (Council Liaison)
- c) Scott Beckman nominated and unanimously approved as Secretary
- d) Scott Raymond nominated and unanimously approved as Vice Chairperson
- e) Meredith Kates nominated and unanimously approved as Chairperson
- f) Approval of Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2019 as third Monday of the month (7:00 pm) at the Borough Hall as follows:
  - January 21, 2019; February 18, 2019; March 18, 2019; April 15, 2019;
  - May 20, 2019; June 17, 2019; July 22, 2019; August 19, 2019; September 16, 2019; October 21, 2019; November 18, 2019; and December 16, 2019.
- g) ANJEC membership has been renewed for all members.
- h) 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’.
- i) 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.

## **II. Committee Business**

- a) December 17, 2018 meeting minutes approved.
- b) ANJEC online newsletter renewed (email). Scott R. requested to receive a hard copy mailed version of the ANJEC newsletter.
- c) Meredith and the Borough Administrator (Jonathan DeJoseph) mutually agreed to meet and discuss Environmental Commission (EC) business one-week after EC meeting.
- d) End of year budget (2018) – Scott R. stated that funds are available in budget to purchase printed shirts for EC members that do not have shirts. Will require an I9 from the vendor, as well as an itemized cost breakdown (for orders exceeding \$200).
- e) New budget (2019) – budget spreadsheet circulated to sub-committee members. Sub-committee needs to meet to discuss and finalize EC budget request.
- f) Tree Bank Escrow Fund:
  - i. It was confirmed that the Tree Bank Escrow Fund was only being used for the acquisition and planting of trees, and not for general Borough expenses.
  - ii. Scott R. requested that he receive timely and complete Tree Bank Escrow Fund data so that he can track deposits and expenditures.

## **III. Community Advisory**

- a) Alexander Cleaner – Fred asked if the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) provided a quarterly update on remedial activities as promised during their visit to the Hillsdale Council. If not, should the EC or Borough Administrator draft a letter of request to the NJDEP for the quarterly update.
- b) Community Forestry Update:
  - i. The EC received a list of tree plantings for 2018.
  - ii. Steve approved for Community Forestry training.
- c) Tree Ordinance Status Update
  - i. Planning on finalizing Q1 2019.
  - ii. Ed identified several issues including: right of way trees; change in number of replacement trees in flood zone (we recommend 4:1 instead of current 2:1); and, a legal review of tree bank use for maintenance.
  - iii. Scott R. asked if the value per tree of \$250 should be raised?
- d) UST Registration expirations – The NJDEP said that they are aware of the registration issues. Fred recommended that we no longer pursue the issue.
- e) Freight Impact NJOT Grant Endorsement by the EC – EC asked to endorse impervious surface reforestation grant. EC endorsed the grant the last week of December 2018.

## **IV. Planning and Zoning**

- a) 333 Washington Avenue – New plan proposed with less units. Plan will be revised in February with a new application.
- b) Walsky walk through – Over one-hundred trees coming down

## **V. Long Range Items**

- a) ERI
  - i. Fred prepared an inventory of open space and sent to the Borough Engineer. Noted publicly vs. privately owned discrepancies on property maps and Master Plan.

## Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes January 24, 2019

- ii. Scott B. will contact Dr. Beth Ravit of Rutgers to assist in the preparation of maps and other GIS related materials.
- b) Suez
  - i. Suez will present on the watershed project on January 31, 2019 at the Haworth plant.
  - ii. License agreement signed on December 6, 2018.
- c) Styrofoam
  - i. The Borough Administrator is enthusiastic and supportive for a Styrofoam recycling drive. His only concern is that it is a one-time event. Adam will organize a date.
  - ii. There will be a meeting on January 27, 2019 for Styrofoam education.
- d) Composting – Fred prepared a list of questions/suggestions regarding composting. Recommends the formation of a subcommittee.

### **VI. Spring Events**

- a) Arbor Day – saplings will arrive on April 12 and will be tagged on April 13 at the DPW

### **VII. Training/Events**

- a) ANJEC- Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions- Fair Lawn on March 2 at the Fair Lawn Community Center 9:00-1:00 (RSVP)
- b) Green Infrastructure and Transportation (Newark)- Feb. 6, 9:30-12:30
- c) Sustainable Hub Jan. 31 meeting (Leonida)

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:41 pm

**Next meeting:** February 18, 2019 , 7:00pm