

Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes May 20, 2019

Members in attendance: Meredith Kates, Ed Alter, Steve Goodman, Fred Rubel, Scott Beckman

I. Commission Business

- a. Call to Order (7:04 pm) and approval of minutes from April 15, 2019
- b. Correspondence and email
 1. Hillsdale Troop 109 Boy Scout- Fintan Henry (fintanhenry@gmail.com) seeks conservation related community service hours. Three environmental and conservation hours by mid-June. Recommend cleanup in Beechwood Park.
 2. Angela Thomas (mycozygarden.com) appreciates the EC site and suggests conservation guide to be added to website. Bob will check out the website and reach out to her. She is with a group that meets monthly.

II. Community Advisory

- a. Alexander Cleaners- update from Mark Herzberg
 1. Update on the progress received from the NJDEP. Fred and Scott reviewed and everything looks OK so far.
- b. Community Forestry Update – HEC members reviewed and discussed potential comments, as follows:
 1. Very comprehensive and complete work (for a start)
 2. Significant work recommended- is there a list of priorities or planned sequence for addressing?
 3. No representation of conifers
 4. How was the scope of inventory decided (or how broad was the inventory?).
 5. No inventory of Beechwood Park, etc.
 6. We are assuming this was just a right of way survey. Are there plans for any further assessment (as was implied in the survey?).
 7. There are other public areas of concern/hazardous trees that were not inventoried.
 8. Invasive trees and plants should be considered
 9. A public education component is recommended - EC can help with organizing a public program on EOB and invasive tree pests
 10. The report's recommendation for canopy coverage for applicants to a land use board is an excellent suggestion but would require passing an ordinance
 11. There is an announcement of Hillsdale Tree Replacement Program to post announcements. What is this program?
 12. Acreage in the Master Plan and the Report are not consistent
 13. Did not consult with the Environmental Commission
 14. EC involvement is understated. Language should be taken from the town website.
 15. Draft tree ordinance not reviewed or included.
 16. Implementation plan objectives are listed per year. Which of these will be undertaken?

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- c. Suez Walkway
 - 1. There will be a letter written to the State from the three mayors.
 - 2. Jon is writing his own letter
 - 3. Resolution of the issue may take up to a year.

III. Spring EC events

- a. Bi-State Clean-Up Day wrap-up and suggestions for the future
 - 1. Do not schedule the fishing tournament on the same day
 - 2. Shoprite should not have left bags
- b. Arbor Day wrap-up and suggestions for the future
 - 1. Bob needs to coordinate with the schools
 - 2. Scott R. gets the trees and locates the spot.
 - 3. DPW did not plant the tree.
 - 4. There is a need better coordination with the BA.
- c. Seedling Give Away Program wrap up and suggestions for future
 - 1. Overall, worked better this year
 - 2. Make a change so that it is not done at schools
 - 3. We should be documenting who takes the trees
 - 4. Need a sign-up sheet
 - 5. Include more information
- d. Beechwood Park- "Be the Church" update (Scott) – date not decided
- e. Oradell Styrofoam Recycling Drive (June 15) – wait until September (Town day Sept. 14th)

IV. Trainings/Presentations

- a. ANJEC Conference/Training comments
 - 1. Somewhat repetitious but improved from last year
 - 2. Should rotate commissioners.
 - 3. A flash drive is available for review
 - 4. Should expand the stormwater training include EC
 - 5. Need more on wildlife management.

V. Planning/Zoning

- a. RJN333 LLC revision is available to re-review

VI. Long Range Items- Updates

- a. ERI- Fred/Scott – some comments from Chris on Open Space inventory
- b. Town Day- Sept. 14, 2019 -make more kid friendly with games and have table

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm

Next Meeting: June 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm