

# Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes July 20, 2020

**Members in attendance (via teleconference):** M. Kates, L. Toro, S. Raymond, E. Alter, O. Peacock, F. Rubel, S. Goodman, S. Beckman

## I. Commission Business

- a. Call to order – 7:02 pm
- b. Approval of minutes from February 17, 2020
- c. Moment of Silence in memory of Jack Stubbs (EC Founder Chair Emeritus)
  1. Owen suggested putting up a memorial in the park
  2. Ed suggested talking to Anthony DeRosa about that idea
- d. Correspondence and emails
  1. Alex Lukin- 94 Forest Dr. Inquiry regarding yearly pond spraying of mosquitos. Neglected this year. Request forwarded to Borough Administrator and Council Liaison in June.
  2. New Jersey Dept. of Urban and Community Forestry Program- Notification of lapse in Annual Accomplishment Report – necessary to get grant money – need to send in report – Mayor and BA will find past certification and that will be accepted by the State. The Mayor will forward past report to the BA and report for 2019 will be prepared and submitted.
- e. Budget Update – Council Liaison (Frank Pizzella) not present – tabled for August meeting

## II. Presentations to the Environmental Commission

- a. Faith Macchione (Junior at PV) + Kristin Lindstrom - PV High School Bee Hive project update
  1. Bees are currently in Ramsey and will be brought in after COVID. Social media for informing the community. Interested in getting others at PV interested in the importance. Issues associated with COVID.
  2. Bees have importance in interests in other areas such as environmental. Educate. In person speakers, visual. Spread to Middle and Elementary students. Started in April 2019.
  3. Questions
    - i. Owen – where are the bees being kept ? Answer - Enclosure with open top for safety and training.
    - ii. Fred – How does Demarest Farms pollinate? Do they bring in bee hives? Are there any synergies? – Answer – Don't know. This is something to look into.
  4. Faith wants to plant a garden in town. May be too late this year. Fred suggested that the new PV school mascot could be a bee. Fred also asked if the garden would be for the bees. Faith answered yes.
- b. William Haffler (Hillsdale DPW Supervisor and the Clean Communities Coordinator) - Recycling issues and ideas moving forward
  1. Discussion regarding projects we can do together.



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2. Recycling in Hillsdale is a problem – the community is providing dirty recycling. Community needs to be educated on recycling. How can we educate and enforce? DPW has purchased stickers and door hangers to inform.
3. Scott R. – Paramus purchased and puts out special containers.
4. The EC will set up a sub-committee to collaboratively address recycling issues.
  - i. Volunteers – Owen, Luisa, Scott B.
  - ii. Education will be first priority

## III. Meeting Opened to the Public

## IV. Community Advisory

- a. Debrief on meeting with the BA (Feb. 18)- Meredith, Scott R., and Fred. Short meeting. Discussed budget and tree bank. Introductory meeting. Follow up meetings to be more substantive. Chris open to receiving grant initiatives. Scott R. to reach out for future meetings.
- b. Alexander Cleaners- no update
- c. Community Forestry/Arborist Update - Discussed grant and moving forward – Scott R. will report back for next meeting
- d. Tree Ordinance Status Update - The EC (Fred) will write a letter requesting that the Tree Ordinance be placed on the Council agenda for approval. This approach was approved by the Commission.

## V. Planning/Zoning

- a. 333 Washington – need update
- b. Built for Success – 10 Orchard – voted on and denied
- c. The Preserve – Chris and Scott R. met with site manager and landscape manager – heated discussion but were accommodating. Agreed to put in big trees to block PSE&G station.
- d. Carport addition. Steve Goodman did the review. Put in carports on the north and south sides of property. Aesthetics will be compromised. Steve suggested that along Paterson Street put in high hedges. Concerned about overhangs extending past curbing. May not be in compliance with drainage.

## VI. Long Range Items

- a. ERI update (Fred) – Fred sent out updated Open Space. Current Master Plan is outdated. In the form of a map. Index is required and will be an element of the ERI. Changes include exclusion of small lots that have been acquired for flood control. Table 1 includes 11 properties. Table 2 identifies other substantially unbuilt properties that do not meet the criteria for public enjoyment. Commission should adopt this updated list and pass it on to the Borough and Public. Should go to Chris and put on website. And then to Planning Board. Not sure if Council needs to approve.
- b. Website – Scott B. will take over from Bob C.



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## VII. Community Programs

- a. None scheduled due to COVID-19

## VIII. Upcoming Trainings/Events

- a. HUB meetings on August 11

Meeting Adjourn: 8:59 pm

**Next Meeting:** August 17, 2020