

# Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes March 21, 2022

**Members in attendance (Video Conference):** M. Kates, S. Raymond, O. Peacock, F. Rubel, S. Goodman, R. Savino, N. Rondon, B. Defiglio, S. Beckman

## I. Commission Business

- a. Call to order – 7:05 pm
- b. Roll call and approval of minutes from February 21, 2022
- c. Correspondence
  - i. Wastewater commission conference in October 2022 – email
  - ii. Pascack Valley Honors wants to do a spring cleanup (Friday in May)
- d. Budget – need input from A. Lundy
- e. Meeting format moving forward – start in person meeting April 18

## II. Community Advisory

- a. Community Forestry- 2021 annual report status confirmation – need to confirm status
- b. Beechwood Trail (temporarily closed)
  - i. Immediate DPW Repair Plans 2021 annual report status confirmation – need to confirm status
  - ii. Follow up procedures for ongoing trespassing violations - fine is up to \$2,000 and community service - R. Savino will draft simple amendment
- c. Alexander's Cleaners- Update (S. Raymond) March 3 testing on site –drilling borings for groundwater monitoring– drilling to the east as well
- d. Historic Salem Oak Seedling – 500-year-old seedling – did not take it last year – DPW would be able to pick up, plant, and maintain. May or may not get one

## III. Planning/Zoning

- a. Community Survey results – posted on Planning Board link – received about 1,000 responses – lots of residents care about Green issues – safety and traffic big issues
- b. Master Plan Reexamination- scheduled for April 2022
- c. Group home on Ruckman – no formal EC review needed – S. Raymond met with Engineer and discussed some items regarding plantings.

## IV. Upcoming and Current EC Initiatives

- a. "Hike For Hillsdale"- HEF April 9 (Sapienza Gardens 10-2:00 pm) – Meredith will pick up game (Wheel of Fortune) – N. Rondon and O. Peacock will participate
- b. Seedling Distribution- planning and needs – pick up April 21 (Friday) distribution Sat. April 23 – DPW will pick up seedlings on Thursday, sort, and label/distribute
- c. Arbor Day Ceremonies - update from F. Rubel/S. Raymond - tree for every school that wants it – EC contacts schools and finds a site for planting – coordinate with Council – Anne Blanche responded – waiting for other schools – meet at Smith and go to George White
- d. ANJEC Grant cycle 2022- need to follow up
- e. PV Honors' student clean-up- to be scheduled on a Friday pm in May
- f. Hillsdale Fall Festival (Future Action)- October 1, 2022

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- g. "Plastics Ban"- May 4 (info at <https://njnoplastics.org/>) Please see attached links for examples of local EC campaigns to be discussed

### V. Long Range Items

- a. ERI - Status and Distribution Plan
  - 1. ERI is broken into two halves
  - 2. Editorial comments incorporated
  - 3. It will be a living document
  - 4. Fred can email link to Dropbox
  - 5. The yet-to-be approved/developed route in Hillsdale leading along Woodcliff Lake will be included in the next update of the ERI
  - 6. Questions - route to Planning Board? Correspondence or presentation?
  - 7. Will be in the Master Plan
  - 8. Once a year sub-committee for yearly updates as needed

### VI. Training/Events

- a. **Preparing for the Statewide Single-Use Plastic Ban-** March 23 (This law will go into effect on May 4, 2022). How can municipalities prepare their local businesses and community members for this transition? What resources are available for education & outreach? What role do green teams and environmental commissions play? \* In preparation for this event, participants are asked to first watch the recording of ANJEC's "Countdown to NJ's Full Plastic Pollution Reduction Law". You can find the recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmxBw3EXCBo>  
<https://tcnj.zoom.us/joining/register/tJcsd-yqpzoqH9Q22RJxP-MTGMqYWCUo2SEM> (to register for the webinar)
- b. **High Functioning ECs: How to Impact Your Municipality-** ANJEC's 2022 Roundtable – April 5, 7:00 pm - Short presentations from Environmental Commissioners around NJ, sharing projects and programs in their community; opportunity to meet and chat with commissioners from other municipalities in NJ. Register: Email ANJEC ([info@anjec.org](mailto:info@anjec.org)) to register (ANJEC member) Login details will be emailed on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- c. ANJEC Virtual Earth Day Fair (April 22)

**Meeting Adjourn:** 8:33 pm

**Next Meeting:** April 18, 2022