

TOWN OF HAMMONTON
Hammonton Lake Water Quality Advisory Committee
Minutes

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Vice Chairman Keenan opened the meeting at 7:35 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present:

John Keenan, Vice Chair
Bill Parkhurst
Robert Roesch
John Fortis
Otto Hernandez
John Scianni

Members Absent:

Dr. Tait Chirenji
Paul Galletta
Steve Mortellite
Robert Reitmeyer, Chairman

Others Present:

Mickey Pullia, Councilman

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the May 2016 meeting were not available prior to the meeting; therefore, approval of the May 2016 minutes was tabled until the July 2016 meeting.

Committee Reports:

Town Council: Aquatic vegetation control spraying was completed May 19 with the second application in accordance with the NJDEP Permit schedule. Jerry Barberio advise the Council Rep the herbicide was applied according to plan and appeared to be effective at this preliminary stage. Four plastic trash barrels were removed from the lake during the spraying.

Water quality testing was done prior to the recent triathlon held at the lake. Samples tested below the State water quality standard for fecal coliform so the swim portion was held and the event was very successful. Highway Dept crews removed the corrugated black plastic half pipe separating the beach from the picnic area because it was coming up in sections – the pipe was taken to the Public Works Yard for storage.

It was noted portions of the Clean Flo piping between motorized units is floating – the anchor system keeping it submerged has likely corroded. Kayaking and canoeing are planned at the park during the 4th of July celebration, so the piping must be attended to in advance. We advised that the Committee adopted a motion last meeting that the Clean Flo would not be used this year, but should be left in place for possible future use. Therefore, Fire or Highway Department crews will re-anchor rather than remove the piping before the 4th of July.

Parks & Recreation Commission: Someone reported to the Commission their opinion that purple martin birds were starving because an early cold snap terminated the early hatch of insects the martins were feeding on. No solution or alternative food supply was suggested to address what is likely a normal cyclical occurrence in nature.

Environmental Commission: No one from the Environmental Commission was present, so this report was tabled.

Great Egg Harbor River Council: John Keenan attended the June 15 Council meeting as the Town representative and participated as a volunteer in two educational programs for 4th and 6th grade classes from Somers Point schools. Hammonton was offered the opportunity for classes to attend trawling boat trips on Great Egg Harbor Bay next school year at no cost, if teachers are interested in incorporating related topics into lesson plans. School Board members contacted said there are teachers who would take advantage of this, so contact was initiated.

Old Business:

- 1. Hammonton Lake Management Items:** As this is a lake lowering year, Council will approach ARH at next Monday's Council meeting to begin obtaining the DEP Permit.

To begin updating the Lake Management Plan, John Scianni will email an electronic copy of the current plan to all members since most did not have a copy. We should all review the current plan and be prepared to discuss how and what type of updating the plan requires at the July meeting.

- 2. Pet Stations:** John Fortis said an appropriation of approximately \$800 would be needed to install 10 additional stations. Mickey Pullia will pass the information to Joe Giraldo at Council to see if funding may be available.
- 3. NJ Future:** John Keenan reported on the May 24 Green Infrastructure Workshop for engineers and design professionals presented by NJ Future, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, ANJEC and Princeton Hydro at the NJM campus, including a tour of the NJM Campus' green infrastructure stormwater management basins designed by Princeton Hydro. Four Town reps attended - Bob Vettese, Dan Bachalis, Bob Reitmeyer and John Keenan. The MOU between Hammonton and NJ Future to develop a demonstration project at no cost or obligation to Town has been agreed to and is expected to be executed by both parties shortly.
- 4. 2016 Committee Goals:** As no members had copies of the current list of goals and assigned leads, it was agreed to request that Chairman Reitmeyer redistribute the list to revisit the status of 2016 goals at the July meeting.

New Business:

- John Scianni noted a beaver(s) were seen on the lake recently (confirmed by John K.) cutting down and eating Atlantic White Cedar trees along the shoreline. Since they were last seen several weeks ago but not recently, it was agreed to monitor the situation for now; Bill Parkhurst believes the State Game Wardens will live trap and remove beavers to Wharton Forest if confirmed to still be present.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Keenan