

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Proposed Minutes

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Call to Order – 7:05 PM

Present: Bachalis, Caruso-Cafiso, Crowley, Donio, Menzel

Excused: Hozik, Matro, Murphy

Absent: Carr

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of July 2019 Minutes

Motion to approve as amended: Menzel. Second: Donio. Approved by acclamation.

Dispense with Regular Order of Business

Motion to Dispense: Donio. Second: Caruso-Cafiso. Approved by acclamation.

Review of proposed redevelopment plan, White Horse HMT Urban Renewal, LLC, 308 S. White Horse Pike

- Appearing: Nick Talivacchio, attorney with Cooper Levinson, representing White Horse HMT, LLC
 - Jason Sciuillo,
 - Eric Wolfe, Principal with White Horse HMT, LLC
- Ramada Inn motel to be renovated to become Assisted Living (AL) and Adult Medical Day Care (ADMC).
- AL to be affordable units, thus qualifying as partial fulfillment of Town's Affordable Housing commitment.
- AL and ADMC populations to be separate. ADMC participants come only to the day program.
- Motion to approve application, with conditions: Caruso-Cafiso. Second: Menzel. Approved unanimously.
 - Conditions to include:
 - Applicant should consider replacing non-native plantings with plants native to the Pinelands, or at least native to New Jersey.
 - Specifically,
 - Replace Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) with either xxxxxxxxxxxxxx. NOTE: *Euonymus alatus* is on the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Force's "Do Not Plant" list.
 - Replace *Buxus sempervirens* (Boxwood) with *Ilex glabra*.
 - Replace
 - Replace
 - Replace
 - Exterior LED luminaires should, as applicant testified, have a CCT rating of no more than 3,000K.
 - Applicant should reduce or eliminate the light spillage onto Rte. 30.
 - Applicant should obtain an affirmative reply from the Town of Hammonton Utility Department regarding the impact of increased water usage and discharge upon the Town's water supply and treatment systems before proceeding with active development.
 - Applicant

Return to Regular Order of Business

Motion to Return: Caruso-Cafiso. Second: Menzel. Approved by acclamation.

Correspondence

1. Pinelands Commission to John Spado, Pine Road – noting deficiency in application for subdivision application
2. Pinelands Commission to Eric Wolf, White Horse HMT – Inconsistent Certificate of Filing determination
3. Pinelands Commission to Daniel Chapman, Hammonton – Notice of Public hearing regarding septic system
4. Pinelands Commission to John Spado, Pine Road – Notification of Consistency

Committee Reports

Town Council – Councilwoman Sacco: Chief of Police Jones retiring end of September this year; Council plans to have Acting Chief appointed at next Council meeting. Application submitted for \$400,000 Small Cities grant, for ADA improvements at Lake Park. September marks the 10th anniversary of the Canoe Club; a celebration is being planned.

Land Use Board – Commissioner Hozik – no report.

Parks and Recreation Commission – Commissioner Cafiso – no meeting

Lake Water Quality Advisory Committee – Commissioner Bachalis – no meeting this month.

Green Committee – Commissioner Menzel – Eye-Opening Film & lecture Series tomorrow night, on the topic of Jersey-friendly Yards, at the canoe club 630 – 830, garden work days, green day planning

Bicycle Advisory Committee – Commissioner Murphy – no report

Greater Egg Harbor River Council – Commissioner Bachalis – no report

Old Business – Work Plan Updates

EIS – Commissioner Hozik – no report. Commissioner Hozik may send EIS recommendations directly to Councilwoman Sacco.

NRI – Commissioner Bachalis – ARH reports they should have a draft of at least some sections of the revision within a week or two.

Pollinator Garden – Commissioner Bachalis – Need to make contact and arrange for volunteers from area schools for the fall.

CFMP – Commissioner Crowley – Commissioner Crowley will be attending “Right tree, right place” training next week.

Public Communication

E-Presence – Commissioner Caruso-Cafiso – Facebook continues to attract followers.

Press – Commissioner Bachalis – no report

H.O.P.E. – Commissioner Bachalis – identified affirmative locations for the two bike racks purchased by the Commission: next to the benches at Veterans Park. Need to present to Parks and Rec Commission for final approval. Motion to approve action: Caruso-Cafiso. Second: Crowley. Approved 5-0 with request for recycling cans also to be installed by Town.

Tree Bank – Commissioner Menzel – Meeting September 6 to review No Net Loss plantings, with NJDEP representative. Will coordinate date for tree bank review with Scott Rivera.

Plastic Bag Campaign – Commissioner Bachalis – Have a preliminary design from Don Swenson, will finalize. Menzel and Bachalis to meet to develop educational materials.

Grants – no action/report

Training – Commissioner Bachalis – reviewed tree hazard identification training.

Reminded Commissioners we’ll need to register for NJ Shade Tree Federation conference in October.

Tree Protection – Commissioner Bachalis – still no word from Solicitor Malinsky.
Councilwoman Sacco and Chair Bachalis will follow up.

Planting Strips – Commissioners Donio & Hozik – no report

Master Plan Green Building Element – Commissioner Caruso-Cafiso – will review grant availability from Sustainable Jersey, other possibilities.

Tree Removal Applications

1. Eagle Theatre (Jim Donio), 200 Vine Street. Three trees for removal and/or trimming, three replacements. Application dated 7/10/2019. Motion to approve removal of all three: Menzel. Second Caruso-Cafiso. Approved 3-1, one recusal.
2. Joseph Haden, 934 S. 2nd Road. One tree for removal, two replacements. Application dated 7/15/2019. Motion to approve: ?.Second: ?. Approved 5-0.
3. Lacey Lake, 521 Rail Way. One tree for removal, no replacements. Application dated 7/25/2019. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso. Second: Menzel. Approved 5-0.
4. Robert and Helen D’Agostino, 226 Price Street. Six trees for removal, six replacements. Application dated 7/25/2019. No permit required: trees undersized.
5. Jacob Franchetti, 227 S. Liberty Street. One tree for removal, no replacements. Application dated 8/4/2019. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso. Second: Crowley. Approved 5-0
6. Thomas G. Dixon, 328 Walnut Street. Two trees for removal, two replacements. Application dated 8/7/2019. Motion to approve: Menzel. Second: Caruso-Cafiso. Approved 5-0.

New Business

1. Commissioner Donio noted there are a lot of dead trees around town, especially street trees. Noted dead or dying trees especially along French Street and Bellevue Avenue. Bachalis noted possibility of taking action within the 2020 work plan. Commissioner Crowley will check the CFMP to see where this would fit in.
2. Commissioner Menzel noted interest in becoming more familiar with the i-Tree data and program. Bachalis will poll commissioners and coordinate date to review the program and data with commissioners and Town staff. Question: can Town staff package the data and email it all to us? Bachalis will follow-up with Town staff.
3. Commissioner Donio noted that the Cherry trees on Bellevue seem to be developing an unusual shape, with outward branching that may not lend it to being a “good” street tree.
4. Councilwoman Sacco noted that Sustainable Jersey will be holding a “Listening Session” to take input from green teams in the region regarding current and future aspects of the Sustainable Jersey program. The session will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 6 pm at NJM. The session is free but registration required.

Adjournment: 9:35 PM