

Hammonton Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Call to Order

Attended: M. Matro, A. Donio, M. Hozik, D. Bachalis, T. Cafiso, A. Murphy,
A. Menzel, C. Crowley

Absent: S. Carr

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of January 2019: Motion to approve the meeting minutes with the additions that D. Bachalis will submit was made by M. Hozik and seconded by A. Menzel. M. Matro abstained as she was absent from that meeting. All others in favor.

Correspondence: None

A. Donio made a motion to dispense with the regular order of business and was seconded by T. Cafiso. All in favor.

Presentation: Carolyn Singer, Stormwater Organizer for the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters came to give a brief talk. She gave us some great information and gave us a better understanding of Gov. Murphy's "rain tax" – not yet signed into law. This tax is really more of a fee which will be build to each property according to certain criteria as to how fee is determined but will be in the neighborhood of \$25-100 depending. This fee is to cover the cost for each town to do necessary work so as to avoid the disaster that would come without much needed work. Hammonton is on the list of towns with dams that have a high or significant hazard potential. (Hammonton Lake Dam owned by NJDOT). Ms. Singer gave some handouts that showed where Hammonton is in all of this. Hammonton has major flood risks aimed to go higher if we don't make the necessary changes. The Commission invited Ms. Singer to do a meet and greet presentation at the Hammonton Lake on March 30th when lake is slated for clean up by the commission. The Commission also invited her to Green Day Fest slated for September.

T. Cafiso made a motion to return to the regular order of business and was seconded by Dr. Hozik.

Committee Reports:

Town Council- Councilwoman Sacco – Council had its first reading of the Town's plans to purchase property on Boyer Avenue to dispose of waste water. There was discussion about buying electric vehicles for non-utility town vehicles such as the tax accessor's vehicle. Ms. Sacco has been to meetings with the committee of wasteful plastics held at Casciano's before each Environmental Meeting. There was discussion of art projects that kids could do that would serve a bold reaction to all of the trash or non-recyclable products so as to make people think and possibly find new ways to go about things.

Planning/Zoning – Commissioner Hozik – Sent proposal to Mayor and Council for ground mounted solar in residential zones. They came up with 8 criteria that if met would make it permissible otherwise they would come to the board for use variance. They vote to support the Environmental Commission's "Environmental Impact Statement". Tuckahoe Turf was approved to hold (4)four additional soccer events on their property.

Parks & Recreation - They had their re-organization meeting. 5/18 will be National Kid's Day at the park.

Lake Water Quality – Chairman Bachalis - was unable to attend meeting, will report at March meeting.

Bike Advisory Committee – Chairman Bachalis – spoke of "Kids to Park" day. Trying to get kids to get out and ride to promote exercise and fresh air.

Greater Egg Harbor River Council – Chairman Bachalis –

Green Committee – Commissioner Menzel – Starting to get the Community Garden started for this year. There are some spaces available still for \$20.00. Looking for volunteers. Mother's Club will be having a toy swap. Working on the Sustainable Jersey recertification. There will be a prescription drug collection to get unused or outdated medication off the streets and homes safer. The next Green Drinks night will be held at Rack's at 6pm on February 19th. They will be rescheduling the clean up that was cancelled on Martin Luther King day. They will have a 3rd Thursday table will be giving away trees and landscaping workshops. There will be a rainbarrel workshop on 5/4/19 from 12:30-2:30 at the Canoe Club.

Old Business:

Discussed the support from Planning and Zoning on the updated Environmental Impact Statement.

Chairman Bachalis distributed the 2019 Workplan given new categories and responsibilities. They will appear on next agenda.

Tree Application:

- 1) Corral LLC/Noe Castenada – 720 12th Street – 2 trees – A. Donio made a motion to approve and was seconded by Dr. Hozik. Chairman Bachalis voted no. All others in favor.

Discussion:

- 1) Arbor Day – we need to come up with a new date to give the trees to the school kids as the original date falls during Easter vacation.
- 2) Plastic Bags - Commissioner Matro told us about how Somers Point ShopRite is requiring their customers to bring in re-usable bags. If they need to use a plastic bag they will be charged 5-10cents a piece. They have a sign out front “Don’t fear the fee – bring in your own bags”. Margate designed their own bags and a few business sponsored this initiative and are giving away these bags to re-use. The bag says “Bag it forward”.
- 3) 2/27 from 6-8pm at recycling center in Egg Harbor Township will hold a forum on the changes in the recycling industry.

Adjournment