

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Proposed Agenda

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Call to Order

Present: Bachalis, Caruso-Cafiso, Carr, Crowley, Donio, Menzel, Murphy,
Councilwoman Sacco
Excused: Hozik, Matro

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silent Reflection: in Recognition of Anniversary of 9/11 World Trade Center attacks

Approval of August 2019 Minutes: Motion: Donio; Second: Caruso-Cafiso; Approved by acclamation

Dispense with Regular Order of Business: Motion: Carr; Second: Crowley; approved by acclamation

1. Donald Pitale, 215 12th Street, appeared before the Commission, lives between Bruni's Pizza and a house rented by Mr. Ray Vega. Is concerned about the very large limbs of two trees on Mr. Vega's property, very close to Mr. Pitale's house. Concerned about the limbs falling on his grandchildren. Requests action by the Commission.

Discussion among commissioners regarding ability to compel action by an owner, based on complaint of neighbor. Needs exploration with Code Enforcement and Town Solicitor.

2. Discussion of 2019 Road Improvement Program: Chestnut Street and Orchard Street trees, with Town Public Works Manager: Discussion regarding removal of all trees on Chestnut Avenue, and two trees on Orchard by Horton. Mr. Vettese noted that replacement of curbing and sidewalks will unavoidably severely impact the ability of the street trees on Chestnut to survive. Bachalis noted the planning for this project lacked the foresight of previous road improvement projects to include replacement of street trees affected by the work. Mr. Vettese suggested the CSIP grant awarded to the Town could be used to purchase replacement trees. Bachalis noted he would explore that possibility with NJDEP officials, but that this extemporaneous measure did not replace the need for future projects to include street tree replacement.

Commission approved Town request six yea, one abstention.

Return to Regular Order of Business: Motion: Donio; Second: Caruso-Cafiso; approved by acclamation

Correspondence

1. Pinelands Commission to Dave Berger, Variety Farms, Pleasant Mills Road - violative change of use in Mullica Township

Committee Reports

Town Council – Councilwoman Sacco: Chief Jones has retired and was honored at a recent Council meeting; Lieutenant Kevin Friel was elevated to Chief pending Civil Service confirmation; Washington Street is closed for repairs; Town is submitting a \$400,000 Small Cities grant application for Lake Park recreation equipment and other improvement; the Canoe Club will celebrate its 10th anniversary on September 28 from 10 AM until Noon, all are invited.

Land Use Board – Commissioner Hozik: no report

Parks and Recreation Commission – Commissioner Cafiso: Commission discussed installation of a rain garden in Lake Park, and approved installation of two Environmental Commission-purchased bicycle racks in Veterans Park.

Lake Water Quality Advisory Committee – Commissioner Bachalis: the committee discussed the proposed rain garden at the County library, agreement should soon be signed.

Green Committee – Commissioner Menzel: Committee busy preparing for green Day on the 21st.

Bicycle Advisory Committee – Commissioner Murphy: Committee looking to hold a Bike to School event in May of 2020; Murphy will be part of a panel discussing “suburban cycling” at the East Coast Bikeway conference in Philadelphia, as well as an upcoming podcast.

Greater Egg Harbor River Council – Commissioner Bachalis – No report

Old Business – Work Plan Updates

EIS – Commissioner Hozik – no news

NRI – Commissioner Bachalis – NRI draft supplied, needs review.

Pollinator Garden – Commissioner Bachalis – no report

CFMP – Commissioner Crowley – Shade Tree Federation coming up in October.

Public Communication

E-Presence – Commissioner Caruso-Cafiso – FB page doing well.

Press – Commissioner Bachalis – no news

H.O.P.E. – Commissioner Bachalis – Collaborating with Green Committee and Lake Committee to ensure maintenance at the two proposed rain gardens.

Tree Bank – Commissioner Menzel – Need to schedule time with Bob Vettese; need arborist to complete a planting and maintenance plan before we can receive NJDEP funds.

Plastic Bag Campaign – Commissioner Bachalis – no news, still searching for good design. Councilwoman Sacco suggests Commission create a video regarding the issue.

Grants – CSIP grant needs Annual accomplishment Report as pre-requisite; Bachalis will complete.

Training – Commissioner Bachalis: NJ Shade Tree federation annual conference coming in October; six commissioners interested in attending.

Tree Protection – Commissioner Bachalis – no word from Town Solicitor regarding acceptability of new letter.

Planting Strips – Commissioners Donio & Hozik: no report

Master Plan Green Building Element – Commissioner Caruso-Cafiso: no report

Tree Removal Applications

1. Park Avenue Condo Association, 220 Park Avenue et seq. – 15 trees for removal, 8 to be replaced –roots entering basements and sewer lines: Motion to approve: Donio; second: Murphy, approved 7-0
2. Concetta Lawley, 360 East Lane – one tree for removal, no replacement – tree dying. Motion to approve: Crowley; second: Caruso-Cafiso; approved 7-0

New Business

Adjournment