



Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Call to Order at 7:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Dispense with Regular Order:

Tree Removal Application

1. Antonio Illiano, 109 Poplar Street. 5 trees, no replacements. Starting to rot due to mold, family safety concern. Commission members noted they saw no mold on any of the trees, all the trees appeared sound and in good health. Members noted need for some pruning of the tree by the patio, and that the Dogwood tree was too small to require a permit. Mr. Illiano noted the pines on the right side of the property had dropped branches damaging the neighbor's fence, for which he (Mr. Illiano) paid to have repaired (Chair noted this is properly the responsibility of the neighbor's insurance company.) Mr. Illiano produced a letter from a neighbor alleging that branches from one of the trees (unidentified) had fallen on people. He noted that what he really wanted to do with the large tree by the patio is to trim it back; Commission members agreed this would be the more appropriate course of action. Finally, he noted they intend to install an above-ground pool on the left side of the back yard, near the other pine tree. Chair noted he could submit a new application when he had a schematic indicating the position of the pool relative to the pine tree. Motion to deny with recommendations that applicant judiciously trim/prune the large tree by the patio, and without prejudice regarding resubmission of an application for the single pine tree on the left side of the back yard accompanied by a schematic of the new pool to be installed. Unanimously approved.
2. William Parkhurst, 890 Central Avenue. Two trees, no replacements. Both dead. Continuing from March. Chair recused himself and waited in Town Hall lobby. Applicant noted he would not unnecessarily cut down trees. Commission acknowledged applicant had complied with Town ordinance in the past. Contractor came before permit issued, applicant felt pressured to go ahead with removal, fearing loss of contractor at a good price. Commissioners discussed payment in lieu of a fine, Applicant agreed to \$100, Motion to approve unanimous (with Chairperson recused).

Return to Regular Order

Approval of March Minutes

Correspondence

Committee Reports

Town Council – Councilman Oliva Not present

Land Use Board – Commissioner Hozik Not present

Lake Water Quality Advisory Committee – Commissioner Bachalis – Committee moving meeting venue to the Canoe Club beginning with the May meeting. Monitoring the upcoming aquatic herbicide application.

Greater Egg Harbor River Watershed Association – Commissioner Bachalis No report as Association will meet next week.

Parks and Recreation Commission – Commissioner Cafiso – Pinelands Adventures requested to conduct kayaking programs; Commission will continue discussions to work out the details.

Green Committee – Commissioner Menzel Community Garden will open April 22. Committee continues to work on the Sustainable Jersey submission.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Commissioner Bachalis No report

Tree Removal Applications

1. Atlantic City Electric, 300 N. 2nd Street. Application tabled pending appearance by the applicant.
2. Katie Ferrara, 740 Valley Avenue. Four trees, four replacements. Dead and diseased, too close to home. Approved unanimously.
3. Rae Reynolds Gross, 54 Main Road. One tree, no replacement. Looks like mold on it. Denied
4. Josephine Romeo, 401 Grape Street. One tree, no replacement. Too close to house. Approved unanimously

Old Business

1. Arbor Day program: Mickey Riggan and Chris Bethmann will make a presentation to Sooy Elementary School third-graders. Tree-planting session to be scheduled, Council resolution to be submitted.

New Business

1. ANJEC webinar on plastic pollution, May 4, free.
2. PPA Pinelands Science Forum series, May 19, on climate change. \$35.

Adjournment