



Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Call to Order 7:05 PM

Present: Joe Berenato, Amy Menzel, Dan Bachalis, Terri Caruso-Cafiso, Chris Bethmann, Charley Crowley, Ryan Niedoba, Mike Hozik

Absent: Steve Carr, Council Liaison Jonathan Oliva

Members of the Public: Kimberly McBrearty, Donald Yamasaki (Hammonton Gazette)

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of September Minutes: Motions to approve: Crowley and Bethmann, approved by acclamation

Dispense with Regular Order of Business: Motions: Caruso-Cafiso and Hozik, approved by acclamation

Tree Removal Application

1. Kimi McBrearty, 25 Kay Drive, 11 trees located at 425 Valley Avenue, 10+ replacements. Trees are in the footprint of planned home expansion. Motion to approve: Crowley and Bethmann, approved by acclamation, one abstention. Chair thanked applicant for a well-detailed depiction of plans.
2. Kimi McBrearty, 25 Kay Drive. Tree located at 425 Valley Avenue. 1 hickory tree. Rotten, danger to house and passersby. Motions to approve: Bethmann and Crowley. Approved by acclamation, one abstention

Return to Regular Order of Business: Motions by Caruso-Cafiso and Hozik, approved by acclamation

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports

Town Council report – Councilman Oliva - absent

Land Use Board – Commissioner Hozik – minor approvals

Lake Water Quality Advisory Committee – Commissioner Bachalis – Approved DuBois report on Bladderwort situation in lake, performed maintenance on Hammonton Lake Park rain garden, presentation on lake issues and Birds of Hammonton to Canoe Club volunteers and Historical Society of Hammonton, drafting update to “How to Help Our Lake” guidance.

Greater Egg Harbor River Watershed Association – Commissioner Bachalis – no report

Parks and Recreation Commission – Commissioner Caruso-Cafiso – UOF approvals, updates on park improvements (artificial turf field, etc.)

Green Committee – Commissioner Menzel – Community garden close-out and workday November 11, Garden Talks for fall and winter (10/19, Composting, Hammonton Library; 11/28, Winter Sowing, location TBD), seeking new shed donation, Sustainable Jersey Cape/Atlantic HUB health and wellness activity 11/29 at AtlantiCare faculty on English Creek Road, taking

Seed Library County-wide, wreath-making activity 12/1 at Firehouse #1, Green Day Festival at Veterans Park 11/4, Noon-4

Tree Removal Applications

1. Ed Overdeest, 50 Waterfront Way. 50 trees, replacement not specified. Diseased, crowded, hazardous trees to be removed to make room for extensive new plantings. Applicant had been requested to attend, but notified Commission of required absence due to out-of-town business. Motion to table until November meeting: Caruso-Cafiso and Menzel. Approved by acclamation.
2. Hometown Heritage LLC, 101 Tilton Street. For 1 tree at 642 Bellevue Avenue, no replacement. Dead. Previously approved by Chairperson.
3. Bernadette Rodio, 37 N. Packard. 1 tree, no replacement. Dead. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso and Crowley, approved by acclamation, one abstention.
4. Jacqueline Bruno, 828 Central Avenue. 1 tree, no replacement. Damaged, diseased. Motion to approve: Caruso-Cafiso and Bethmann, approved by acclamation, one abstention.
5. Robert Gunst, 309 Orchard Street. 2 trees, no replacement. Roots lifting driveway and sidewalk. Motion to approve removal of tree by driveway, but recommending judicious crown reduction for backyard tree: Caruso-Cafiso and Crowley, approved by a=acclamation, one abstention.
6. JoAnne Silver, PO Box 53, Elwood. Trees located at 524 Grape Street. 1 tree, no replacement. Tree growing too large and unruly. Motion to approve: Bethmann and Caruso-Cafiso, approved 6-1, one abstention.
7. Ann C. Byers, 1029 N. 1st Road. 1 tree, 1 replacement. Dead. Motion to approve Caruso-Cafiso and Crowley, approved by acclamation, one abstention.
8. Joseph Natale, 121 Batchelor Lane. 3 trees, no replacement. Solar installation. Chair recused. Motion to approve: Bethmann and Crowley, approved by acclamation, one abstention.

Old Business

1. Tree ordinance revision work group – Began review and update, next meeting scheduled for November 7.
2. Green Building/Environmental Sustainability master plan element work group – Restarted development process, next meeting scheduled for October 17.
3. NJ Shade Tree Federation conference October 26-27! Carpool to be arranged. Set up on Wednesday.

New Business

1. Reminder: Green Day Festival participation, 11/4/2023, Veterans Memorial Park, Noon-4 (set-up at 11am)
2. CSIP final inspection successful!
3. Tree Bank planting at three sites around town.
4. Historic Preservation Commission requesting financial support of up to \$425 from EC for 2024 project to preserve history of Salem Oak. Motion to approve: Crowley and Menzel, approved by acclamation.

Adjournment 8:30PM