

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Present: Bachalis, Bethmann, Cafiso, Crowley, Hozik, Berenato, Menzel, Niedoba

Absent: Carr

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Donald Yamasaki

Guests: Melanie Thorn, AmeriCorp Watershed Ambassador; Andrea Streitfeld

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to Dispense with Regular Order of Business: Motion: Menzel; Second: Cafiso. Approved by acclamation.

Speaker – Melanie Thorn, the AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador spoke about the 10-month program that is sponsored by the NJDEP.

Motion to Return to Regular Order of Business: Motion: Bethmann; Second: Cafiso. Approved by acclamation.

Committee Reports

- Town Council – Rodio; No report.
- Land Use Board – Hozik; The board spent a majority of the meeting going over section 6 of the Master Plan. The next Master Plan meeting is scheduled for 3/12. The West End development was also approved.
- Lake Water – Bachalis; There are a presentation by Professor Emma Witt of Stockton University.
- Great Egg Harbor River Council – No report
- Green Committee – Menzel; The committee held 2 garden talks in January and 1 in February. There have been a few groups of Stockton students who have assisted the committee with the website, the logo, and social media. The Sustainable Jersey recertification deadline is coming up. The Sustainable Jersey HUB also has some great programs coming up. On 2/28 there will be a seed swap held at the Canoe Club and the information is on the website. There are talks about moving the green market from 3rd Thursday to 4th Friday. Green Day will be held on 11/2 at Veteran’s Park.
- Bike Advisory – No report.
- Parks & Recreation – No report.

Tree Removal Applications:

1. Andrea Streitfeld, 317 N. Third Street. 5 trees, no replacements. Motion to approve: Cafiso; Second: Bethmann. Approved 6-0.
2. Bradley Bernardino, 820 Central Ave., 2 trees, no replacement. Motion to approve: Cafiso; Second: Bethmann. Approved 6-0.

3. Joan Ake, 743 Virginia Ave., 1 tree, no replacement. Motion to approve: Hozik; Second: Crowley. Approved 6-0.
4. Rosemary Munno, 320 Winding Way, 1 tree, no replacement. Motion to approve: Bethmann; Second: Cafiso. Approved 6-0.
5. Morada Holdings, 408 N 2nd Street, 2 trees, 2 replacements. Motion to approve: Cafiso; Second: Crowley. Approved 6-0.
6. John Bollinger, 649 N. Egg Harbor Road, 2 trees, no replacement. Motion to approve: Menzel; Second: Cafiso. Approved 6-0.

Old Business

New Business

2024 Actions

1. Sub-committee members: Bachalis, Bethmann, Niedoba
2. All members have copies and have sent comments that Dan will go over.
3. ACUA will provide lunch and snacks as well as raffle prizes.
4. Mickey Riggins is available on Arbor Day to do the presentation at 9:15 am at the WES.
5. Dan will send it out for review in March.
6. Completed the Skip grant successfully. Should be eligible to submit a new grant for more trees.
7. The minutes will be updated on the website.
8. Commissioner training is starting in March.
9. Dan assisted other EC members of other Towns to present to Absecon Town Council on why they should consider an EC and the importance of having one.

Adjournment: 8:07 p.m.