

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Call to Order: 7:01 p.m.

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

Absent: Menzel

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Donald Yamasaki

Guests: Ed Overdevest

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of September Minutes: Motion to Approve: Bethmann; Second: Cafiso.

Abstain: Carr & Hozik. Approved by 4-0.

Motion to Dispense with Regular Order of Business: Motion: Hozik; Second: Cafiso.

Approved by acclamation.

Tree Removal Application for homeowner present:

1. Ed Overdevest, 50 Waterfront Way, 50 trees. Tabled from October. Mr. Overdevest was present to discuss his plan for the removal and replacement of trees. After discussion, Commissioner Bethmann mentioned that he was not comfortable with approving the application as is and would like to meet onsite to go over the application in person. Motion to approve with conditions: Bethmann; Second Cafiso. Approved with conditions 6-0.

Motion to Return to Regular Order of Business: Motion: Cafiso; Second: Hozik.

Approved by acclamation.

Committee Reports

- Town Council – No report.
- Land Use Board – Hozik; there was 1 application tabled for further clarification.
- Lake Water – Bachalis; The committee held a discussion with the public on lake management. The next meeting will be held on 11/14. The committee is starting to look at the pros and cons of mechanical removal of bladderwort in the lake.
- Great Egg Harbor River Council – No report
- Green Committee – No report.
- Bike Advisory – No report.
- Parks & Recreation – Cafiso. The turf field had a successful opening. A new stove was installed at the canoe club and all the parks are in good shape.

Tree Removal Applications:

2. Deletta Pinto, 139 Brynmaur Ave., 1 tree, no replacement. Motion to approve: Cafiso; Second: Hozik. Approved 6-0.

3. Ricky DeMarco, 239 Basin Road, one tree, no replacement. Motion to approve: Cafiso; Second: Crowley. Approved 6-0.
4. Robert Capoferri, 489 N Chew Road. One tree, no replacement. Approved by Chairperson.
5. Town of Hammonton, 100 Central Avenue. Two trees in front of St. Joseph's Academy, Central Avenue. Approved by Chairperson.

Old Business

1. NJ Shade Tree Federation conference – Dan, Amy and Chris went to the conference. Dan will type up his notes to share with the commission.
2. 15th Hammonton Green Day Festival recap – Successful event with a lot of visitors from other towns. The posters from the 3rd grade poster contest were on display.
3. Tree ordinance revision work group meeting will be held 11/15/23 in the 3rd floor conference room.
4. Green Building/Environmental Sustainability master plan element work group – will be rescheduled.

New Business

1. West End Ave. development plan review – plans are available at the Town Clerk's office on the 3rd floor of Town Hall.
2. 2024 goals brainstorming ideas:
 - a. Focus on maintaining tree canopy in the town.
 - b. More efficient approval of some applications that could be approved prior to the meetings.
 - c. Look at some of the street trees that need to come down and discuss how to best replace them.
 - d. Revise the CFMP.

Adjournment: 8:40 p.m.