

Hammonton Environmental Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Cafiso, Carr, Niedoba

Town Council: R. Rodio

Hammonton Gazette Reporter: Kristin Guglietti

Guests: Daniel Castellanos

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to Dispense with Regular Order of Business: Motion: Berenato; Second: Crowley. Approved by acclamation.

Tree Removal Applications:

1. Daniel Castellanos, 15 Arena Ct., 20-30 trees. Motion to approve: Crowley; Second: Berenato. Approved by acclamation.

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

Committee Reports

- Town Council – Rodio; No report.
- Land Use Board – Hozik; The board met the first week of November and had 3 applications that were approved.
- Green Committee – Menzel; The community garden will be closing on 11/18 and there are no dates yet for the 2025 garden talks. On 11/30 there will be another composting opportunity at the community garden. There was a pumpkin painting event held before the Halloween parade at the Arts Center. The committee received a bronze recertification from Sustainable New Jersey. On 11/19 there will be a Sustainable NJ luncheon. Green day was a success. There will be a wreath making event held on 12/4 at the Hammonton Family Success Center and the cost is \$25.
- Parks & Recreation – Cafiso; No report.

Old Business

1. Crowley & Menzel attended the ANJEC Environmental Congress. Menzel will share her notes once she has them typed up.
2. The latest draft of the tree protection, maintenance and replacement ordinance was given to the mayor and councilman Furgione; there has been no reply from them yet.
3. Open Space Plan - Commissioner Bachalis mentioned there will need to be several meetings to work on the details of this in 2025.

4. Pollinator Garden - Commissioner Bachalis mentioned there will need to be several meetings to work on the details of this in 2025.

New Business

1. There is a large tree in Veteran's Park that has been cut at the top and isn't in the best shape so it may be better to take it down and replace it. Dan is asking everyone to look at the tree and 2024 discuss in December. Dr. Hozik suggests looking at all the trees in the park and discussing in December.
2. Goals for 2025 – Dan has asked everyone to send him their ideas for 2025 and he will add them to his agenda.

Adjournment: 7:51 p.m.