

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**P. O. Box 1106                      523 Egg Harbor Road**

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**(Approved at April 7, 2016 Meeting)**

**Minutes of March 3, 2016 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leon Lakritz. In attendance at tonight's meeting were Sean Longfellow, Vicky Binetti, John Boyer, Rich Fini, Jodi Smith, Mark Phillips, Chet Nawoyski, Ed Andricola, Ann Culkin and Devin Walker. The minutes of the February 4, 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

In Treasurer Harry Larzelere's absence, Leon Lakritz reported that we have a balance of \$511.88 in our temporary budget as of March 3 2016.

**Old Business**

**Workshop Meeting**

A workshop meeting was held on Thursday, February 18, 2016 to discuss plans for Earth Day/Arbor Day events.

### Clean Up Day/Clean Up Awareness Campaign

No report.

### Recycling Campaign/American Recycles Day

No report.

### Planning Calendar

Leon Lakritz will add the Gloucester County Nature Club's "Bird Quest" event on May 7, 2016 to the calendar.

### Sustainable Jersey

Vicky Binetti noted that the Green Team Steering Committee held a meeting on March 22, 2016. A resolution was passed last year by Council to begin the process of obtaining a bronze certification from the "Sustainable Jersey" program. However, the tasks assigned to the Green Team Advisory Committee were determined not to be of significant benefit to the Township, and the schedule for the Advisory Committee's work needed to be extended, necessitating a new, revised resolution. The revised resolution will be on the Council's agenda for March 30. She also announced several upcoming events relative to Sustainable Jersey: on March 31, "Sustainable Sips," a Tri-County (Burlington, Camden and Gloucester) Sustainability Alliance networking gathering will be hosted by the Monroe Township Green Team, at Racks Restaurant and Pub in Williamstown, and a movie "Tapped," on concerns related to bottled water, will be shown at the Monroe Township Library. Vicky has more details if any members would like to attend.

### Earth Day/Arbor Day

Earth Day will be celebrated nationally on Friday, April 22. The Environmental Commission is planning various community events on or around Saturday, April 23. Leon Lakritz presented a list of projects for Earth Day that were discussed at the February workshop meeting and asked members to select ones that they would be interested to facilitate. Currently there is a balance of \$1,868 in the Earth Day account, and Ann Culkin volunteered to raise funds by contacting local businesses and organizations. Advertising will be handled by Anne Hastings. Leon Lakritz proposed that we encourage developments to beautify the entrances to their development by removing debris and planting flowers, annuals, perennials or shrubs. The Environmental Commission will assist five communities by helping to defray a portion of their expenses, up to \$65.

The Margaret Heggan Free Public Library will be holding an event with Book Buddies. Participating children ages 3 to 5 can dress up as their favorite animal, and Woodsy Owl will lead the "All-Species" Parade. Registration can be done on line. Vicky Binetti will be setting up a display for the month of April, and she is also in discussion with the librarian to host a presentation on Birds of

Gloucester County, by the Gloucester County Nature Club. The WT MUA will give a talk on drinking water in the Township on May 3<sup>rd</sup> which coincides with National Drinking Water Week.

### Stream Sampling

Stream sampling this year is scheduled for April 16 with 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from the Talented and Gifted programs in the Township's elementary schools. Leon Lakritz reviewed the list of volunteers who have agreed to help out.

### Turnersville Auto Mall

Ground water monitoring was performed in October 2015 and again in January 2016 with elevated levels of some contaminants present. Some chemicals are likely related to deicing practices at the Auto Mall; it has been suggested that others are naturally occurring, although that is unclear.

### Washington Square Town Center

The Environmental Commission will request ground water monitoring at this development site in accordance with the Township ordinance. John Boyer discussed in detail the various approvals granted on this project thus far and other issues that still need to be addressed by the applicant. He expects that final approval will be granted once the issues have been resolved.

## **New Business**

### Planning & Zoning Boards

Rich Fini reviewed the following applications before the Planning Board

- ***February 16, 2016*** – Washington Square Urban Renewal LLC, 257 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road. Phase 1 received preliminary and final approval with conditions; Phase 2 received preliminary approval with conditions.
- ***March 1, 2016*** – Amechi, 5950 Route #42, minor site plan. This application was not heard.

### Green Infrastructures Term Paper

Rowan University student, Devin Walker, is preparing a college term paper entitled "Green Infrastructures" and she asked Commission members to participate by answering a series of questions which she distributed.

## **Committee Reports**

### Open Space

Leon Lakritz announced that members of the Open Space Committee, along with engineering consultant Annina Hogan, Public Works staff, and two Council members toured a portion of Washington Lake Park on March 2, to discuss possible projects in the Park. Residents adjacent to the Park were invited to participate.

Council

Council Liaison Sean Longfellow had no report, but he promised to keep the Commission informed of any new information of interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary  
Washington Township Environmental Commission