

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

P. O. Box 1106                      523 Egg Harbor Road

Turnersville, New Jersey 08012

856/589.0520, Ext. 232

[wtec@twp.washington.nj.us](mailto:wtec@twp.washington.nj.us)

**(Approved at May 5, 2016 Meeting)**

**Minutes of April 7, 2016 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leon Lakritz. Also in attendance were Vicky Binetti, Harry Larzelere, Sean Longfellow, John Boyer, Ann Culkin, Anne Hastings, Russ Price, Chet Nawoyski, Jodi Smith, Devin Walker, and guests Angela Donato, Julie Hull, and Christina Ginesi. The minutes from the March 3, 2016 meeting were approved as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Harry Larzelere reported that the balance in our temporary budget is \$650.00 as of April 6, 2016.

**Guests**

**Old Business**

**Workshop Meeting**

Leon Lakritz noted that a workshop meeting was held on March 17, 2016 to finalize environmental programs for Earth Day/Arbor Day which are planned throughout the Township in the month of April.

### Recycling Campaign/America Recycles Day

Vicky Binetti had no new report. She remarked that she has spoken with school officials in an attempt to encourage student participation in a recycling program to recognize America Recycles Day, a national event held every November.

### Planning Calendar

Bird Quest, an event sponsored by the Gloucester County Nature Club, was added to our Planning Calendar for May 7, 2016. The cost is \$12.00. Participants go on a five-hour field trip to various sites frequented by native and migrating birds, have lunch and receive a Bird Quest tee shirt.

### Earth Day

Vicky Binetti compiled and distributed the list of events that the Environmental Commission developed to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day during April. This year the Margaret E. Heggan Library will host two seminars, an "all-species" parade with preschoolers and a month long exhibit. In addition we will sponsor neighborhood beautification campaigns (\$65 grants to qualified participants), stream sampling with fifth grade students, tree plantings in Township-owned open spaces, community gardens in Washington Lake Park, a rain barrel workshop, and a talk about the value of trees to the environment to third graders attending Thomas Jefferson and Hurffville schools.

Vicky Binetti reported that the Township is updating their website which will be more user-friendly. The home page will include breaking news and upcoming events. In addition to the Environmental Commission minutes, our meeting agenda will also be included on the website; we will have the ability to post information on our events and feature subjects of environmental interest.

### Sustainable Jersey

Township Council adopted a Resolution on March 30, 2016 to establish a Green Team Advisory Committee (GTAC) consisting of up to eleven residents or employees of Washington Township, Administration and Township Council on ways to improve municipal operations, reduce waste and energy, and improve the quality of life with initiatives which are economically and environmentally sound. Vicky Binetti reported that the GTAC, comprised of a cross section of Township departments, boards, commissions, and partner organizations, met to discuss the steps needed to secure a bronze certification from the "Sustainable Jersey" program. She noted that Washington Township will submit a certification application in the 2017 cycle. The next meeting of the Green Team will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and will take place thereafter on the first Monday of each month.

### Stream Sampling

The Environmental Commission will host a stream sampling event on April 16, 2016 at the Orchard Valley Middle School. Leon Lakritz reported that he and Frank Vavra visited sites where previous samples were collected. They determined that some of those locations were unsafe and will be eliminated. They explored new areas that would not pose any safety concerns for the students.

## Washington Square Town Center

The Environmental Commission has major concerns with regard to this project due to its proximity to a nearby shallow Township well and the intensity of development. The proposed site includes a medical office building, three retail buildings, an assisted living facility and seventeen buildings containing townhouses and eight buildings with apartments. Phase 1 of the project has received preliminary and final approval, and Phase 2 has received preliminary approval; however, several issues remain open, including tree compensation, ground water monitoring, and open space provision. After due deliberation, a motion was made by Leon Lakritz, seconded by Ann Culkin, that a letter be forwarded to the Planning Board enumerating our concerns and our recommendations. The motion was unanimously agreed upon. John Boyer abstained.

## **New Business**

### Planning & Zoning Board

Rich Fini submitted the following report on current Planning Board applications:

- *March 1, 2016 Meeting* – Amechi Fence application (Mr. Fini was not present at this meeting)
- *March 15, 2016 Meeting* - Meeting cancelled. There were no applications.
- *April 5, 2016 Meeting* – Turnersville UE, Verizon Store (adjacent to Dump store). They received preliminary and final approval.

## **Committee Reports**

### Open Space

Leon Lakritz informed the Commission that the Open Space Committee is currently working to determine the feasibility of building a foot bridge over the spillway at Cedar Pond. He noted a permit would be required from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The Committee is proceeding with obtaining an estimate to erect the foot bridge and ancillary site improvements.

### Council Report

Council Liaison Sean Longfellow indicated that Council is considering an ordinance to prohibit the planting of bamboo because of its invasive and destructive properties. Council is also looking into banning the sale of commercially-bred animals at pet stores in the Township. He also reported that the old Friendly's restaurant near the Dump store will be torn down and replaced with a Verizon store.

### Correspondence

No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary  
Washington Township Environmental Commission