

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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

**Minutes of June 2, 2016 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leon Lakritz. Also in attendance were Vicky Binetti, Harry Larzelere, Lola Pellegrino, Rich Fini, Russ Price, Jodi Smith, Chet Nawoyski, John Boyer, Ann Culkin, and guests Brooke Evanko and Janna DiDonato. The minutes of the May 5, 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Harry Larzelere reported that the balance in our preliminary budget is \$628.01 as of June 2, 2016.

**Old Business**

Workshop Meeting

A workshop meeting was held on May 19<sup>th</sup> to review the events of the 2016 Earth Day celebration and to discuss how we should proceed for the 2017. It was decided that the planning stage for next year's event will start not later than November 2016 to allow ample time to coordinate all activities.

Recycling Campaign/America Recycles Day

Vicky Binetti announced that America Recycles Day will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, and asked Commission members to consider what kinds of activities we could sponsor to promote recycling, in particular working with the school district. The Hurffville School has expressed interest to

participate in the celebration by sponsoring activities with their students. Vicky will touch base with school officials in August with ideas suitable for kids with the concept of recycling.

#### Planning Calendar

South Jersey Land & Water Trust is hosting a nature walk on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Participants in the nature walk will be asked to enter the Park that evening through the Chapel Heights entrance since the wine festival is also scheduled in the Park that weekend.

#### Sustainable Jersey

Vicky Binetti reported that the Green Team Advisory Committee meets the first Monday of each month. She hopes to get an update at the June 6 meeting on the progress of the community garden that Rowan, Rider and St. Augustine students are coordinating, working with the Open Space Advisory Committee. The Green Team is developing a plan including actions that will qualify for credit towards a bronze certification in the Sustainable Jersey program. Two proposed ideas under consideration are to encourage residents to patronize local businesses as well as farm markets, and to promote "Cut It and Leave It" whereby residents use grass clippings as mulch on their lawns rather than bagging for municipal trash pickup. Vicky Binetti will forward copies of the minutes from the Green Team meetings to Environmental Commission members. She also commented that she and Brooke Evanko will be attending the "Sustainable Summit" at the College of New Jersey on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Washington Square Town Center

The Environmental Commission recommended and the applicant agreed to the installation of monitoring wells near the storm water infiltration basins, with bi-annual testing. The Washington Township Municipal Utilities Authority supported the need to monitor the area adjacent to Well #19 by passage of Resolution No. 2016-036. Applicant received final approval on this project except for signage. The Commission did not prevail on moving the dog park abutting water infiltration basins, but applicant agreed to include a clause in the tenants' leases requiring them to clean up after their pets.

A compromise was reached with regard to tree compensation. Applicant has agreed to pay for construction of an access road to Baldwin Boulevard in lieu of payment to the Tree Trust Fund.

#### Environmental Commission Outreach

Vicky Binetti suggested that the Environmental Commission consider participating in more Township events. She feels the exposure would bring awareness of the work that the Commission does throughout the year and may attract new members. It was agreed that the Environmental Commission will participate at the Wine Festival this year. John Boyer, Brooke Evanko and Ann Culkin volunteered to set up an environmental exhibit table provided space is approved by the festival organizer.

### **New Business**

#### Planning & Zoning Boards

Rich Fini discussed the projects before the Planning and Zoning Boards as follows:

### **Planning Board – 5/3/16**

- Presbyterian Homes – Received an extension to their application. Applicant wants to revise and downsize their original site plans.

### **Planning Board – 5/17/16**

- Washington Square Urban Renewal, 257 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road. Final major site plan and final major subdivision received approval.
- M & T, 263 Blackwood-Barnesboro Road. Approved for bonding for tree compensation pending site plan approval.

### **Zoning Board – 5/9/16 (Rich Fini did not attend)**

- Coyle, 12 Sherry Court. Bulk variance.
- Portfolio One, LLC (Manor Care), 378 Fries Mill Road. Extension of approvals.
- Greentree Self Storage, Greentree Shoppers Lane. Extension of approvals.
- Harbor Place, LLC, 288 Egg Harbor Road. Extension of approvals.
- Turnersville Equities, LLC, 3900-4050 Route #42. Use variance.

Vicky Binetti reported that she attended the recent Zoning Board meeting to discuss Turnersville Equities. The Commission has concerns that the endangered species, Swamp Pink, may be present on or near this property. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service had previously requested that a prior developer, CarMax, conduct a survey to ascertain whether Swamp Pink plants were present at this site. Applicant is requesting a zoning variance before proceeding with this project which includes four separate retail businesses including Lidl, a German grocery store. A portion of this property was previously known to be contaminated.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Open Space**

Leon Lakritz recognized the outstanding support he has received from Public Works with regards to the community garden. They have tilled the soil and constructed signs. A fence and gate have been erected by student volunteers. Eighteen garden plots were developed and are adjacent to the Greentree Road entrance to Washington Lake Park. Leon also mentioned that Channel 3 videotaped the grand opening, which was shown on that evening's news program. Brooke Evanko prepared and circulated flyers advertising the community gardens, and Leon sent a letter to the Roots & Shoots Club and spoke with members of the senior center.

#### **Council**

No report in Sean Longfellow's absence

Tiny House Lab Tour

Vicky Binetti announced that a Tiny House lab is coming to the Black Horse Pike in Washington Township on June 13-17. The tour offers workshops to homeowners.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary  
Washington Township Environmental Commission