

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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(Approved at August 4, 2016 Meeting)

Minutes of July 7, 2016 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leon Lakritz. Also in attendance were Vicky Binetti, Lola Pellegrino, Russ Price, Anne Hastings, Jodi Smith, Ann Culkin and Brooke Evanko. The minutes of our June 2, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Leon Lakritz, in Treasurer Harry Larzelere's absence, reported that our budget balance is \$328.01.

Guests

There were no guests scheduled for this meeting.

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

No workshop meeting was held in June.

Recycling Campaign/America Recycles Day

Vicky Binetti reminded the Committee that America Recycles Day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2016. The Hurffville School is interested in celebrating the day with recycling activities.

Vicky asked for EC volunteers to help plan and organize events, and Leon Lakritz and Ann Culkin offered their assistance.

Planning Calendar

Leon Lakritz noted that the Nature Walk sponsored by the South Jersey Land & Water Trust on June 25th was cancelled because it conflicted with the Wine Festival on that weekend. The Nature Walk will be rescheduled for the fall.

Earth Day 2017

Vicky Binetti commented that she would like to start planning Earth Day 2017 in the fall of this year. She urged Committee members to give thought to new ideas to celebrate Earth Day and to decide the size and scope of the event. Leon Lakritz shared that he attended the Water Festival at Scotland Run Park to see what other organizations are doing. It was mentioned at this event that bats are proficient in reducing mosquito populations, and Leon suggested that we might consider a project to place additional bat houses in Washington Lake Park.

Sustainable Jersey

Brooke Evanko and Vicky Binetti attended the “Sustainable Summit” on June 15th at the College of New Jersey. The keynote speaker for this summit discussed climate change and its impact on the environment, and the agenda included numerous presentations and breakout sessions on issues ranging from energy conservation to engaging the business community in sustainability programs.

July 11th is the next meeting of the Green Team Advisory Committee, and Vicky Binetti mentioned that she expects the committee will present status reports on the progress of their actions towards attaining a bronze certification. Brooke Evanko is gathering information and data regarding our Township ordinance on smoke free public places and how it is implemented; “Cut It and Leave It” , an initiative to encourage residents to use grass clippings as mulch on their lawns rather than bagging for municipal trash pick up; and the prescription drug drop-off program operated by the Washington Township Police Department. Other actions being investigated and/or initiated include a plan for bike and pedestrian pathways and promoting local businesses. Washington Township is planning a restaurant week, and a website will be created to feature all of the sustainability-related activities.

Washington Square Town Center

The Planning Board finalized and approved the Town Center project. Vicky Binetti recently noticed, however, that the storm water runoff from Hurffville-Cross Keys Road and from the Town Center development is channeled into a storm water inlet in close proximity to Well #19. This potentially could compromise the quality of water pumped from the shallow aquifer. Leon Lakritz made a motion, seconded by Ann Culkin, that the matter be brought to the attention of the Washington Township MUA with regard to the County sewer inlet which is located near this well. The motion was passed unanimously.

New Business

Planning & Zoning Boards

Rich Fini was not present at tonight's meeting, and in his absence Leon Lakritz gave an overview of the following projects:

- Kabin, 431 Egg Harbor Road. Applicant proposes a slight change and wants to decrease the size of the building footprint and increase internal square footage.
- Giralda, 110 American Blvd. This application is up for review. The property is located in a wellhead protection area, and therefore is subject to restrictions as to the types of business practices that are permitted.

Committee Reports

Open Space

Leon Lakritz announced that the Community Garden is now open and operating. It consists of 18 garden plots with 5 remaining plots still available to any Township resident. Public Works made and erected three signs. To deter deer and others from entering and destroying or removing what is grown within the confines of the garden, students enclosed the garden with a temporary fence.

Leon also noted that the Open Space Committee is looking into acquiring the property on Hurffville-Cross Keys Road, near the old firehouse, as open space.

Correspondence

Leon Lakritz reported that Michael Keating, a Township resident, sent a letter to Mayor Wallace in which he outlined his concerns about Sterling Lake and the possibility that it may dry up, and the discharge of water to the lake from a ground water remediation project and storm water from a nearby subdivision. It appears that those issues were addressed, if not resolved, years ago by relevant authorities.

Leon also received a copy of a letter that Manor Care sent to the DEP indicating that they have plans to expand westward and inquired as to the location of the wetlands on the property.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission