

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**P. O. Box 1106 523 Egg Harbor Road
Turnersville, NJ 08012**

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(Approved at October 6, 2016)

Minutes of August 31, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leon Lakritz. Also in attendance were Vicky Binetti, Sean Longfellow, John Boyer, Russ Price, Anne Hastings, Ann Culkin, Lola Pellegrino, Jodi Smith, Chet Nawoyski, Rich Fini, Michael Keating, and Bill Neimeister. The minutes of the August 4, 2016 meeting were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Treasurer Harry Larzelere, Leon Lakritz reported that there have been no expenditures since our last meeting, and our budget balance remains at \$1,233.01

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

Leon Lakritz noted that no workshop meeting was held in July.

Clean Up Day

The Commission is in the process of selecting locations to be cleaned on Clean Up Day which is scheduled for October 8th (rain date October 15th). Anne Hastings will reach out to Public Works, the park rangers, and the Township clerk to get their input on areas that are in need of clean up. Leon Lakritz suggested we review the list from last year to identify locations that were heavily trashed and evaluate them for clean up this year. John Boyer, Rich Fini, Leon Lakritz and Harry Larzelere volunteered to visit potential sites.

The Clean Up Day account has a balance of approximately \$2,700 from last year. Vicky Binetti spoke with the Township Solicitor and ascertained that the Commission is in compliance with policy in soliciting donations to fund Clean Up Day. Ann Culkin mentioned that she extended an invitation to Mayor Wallace, State Senator Madden, Assemblywoman Gabriela Mosquera, and Assemblyman Paul Moriarty to address the volunteers at the barbeque in the Park following the cleanup event. The Commission discussed how we should best utilize the three hours of police protection that the Township is providing.

Ann Culkin and Russ Price agreed to count the number of tee shirts in our supply inventory to determine how many more we will need to purchase this year. Vicky Binetti will print certificates for the young children and community service letters for the older ones. These will be distributed at the barbeque. Bill Neimeister will reserve Pavillion A, and Chet Nawoyski will arrange to obtain the charcoal and/or propane. Anne Hastings said she will arrange for a pretzel donation from the Pretzel Factory. Sean Longfellow suggested that team captains use their cell phones to capture photos during the clean up activities. Ann Culkin will reserve a room in the municipal building where the supply boxes can be packed the night before.

Recycling Campaign/America Recycles Day

Vicky Binetti has contacted Jeffrey Pollock, principal of the Hurffville Elementary School, who has expressed interest in having his students participate in recycling activities to mark America Recycles Day on November 15; the school's participation is as yet uncertain. Vicky has several ideas, and Leon Lakritz and Ann Culkin volunteered to help plan the event starting mid-September. The Margaret E. Heggan Library may also participate. Vicky will follow up to see what type of event might be planned.

Planning Calendar

Leon Lakritz announced the upcoming ANJEC Environmental Congress on Friday, September 30, at the Mercer County College in East Windsor. The theme this year is Climate Change. Registration is \$65 per participant. Leon Lakritz asked for a motion to spend \$130 for two Commission representatives to attend the conference. A motion was made by Ann Culkin, seconded by Chet Nawoyski and unanimously approved.

Earth Day 2017

Leon Lakritz again asked members to give thought to new ideas or concepts to promote Earth Day 2017.

Sustainable Jersey

The next meeting of the Green Team Advisory Committee is September 12th. Vicky Binetti noted that to date we have approximately 150 points of activities that we believe qualify, or should qualify when completed, towards a bronze certification in the Sustainable Jersey program. She mentioned several ideas under consideration. A survey of bicycle and pedestrian paths in the Township is planned which will be led by John Boyer.

Turnersville Equities

Members of the Environmental Commission attended a recent Zoning Board meeting to discuss our concerns with this project off Route 42 and Watson Drive. The developers currently propose to build a supermarket and two additional retail facilities on a 11.5 acre portion of a 35 acre plot of land. Vicky Binetti discussed numerous environmental concerns including: ground water contamination by a former gasoline service station, presence of underground storage tanks, wells, storm water basin, tree protection issues and possible impairment of endangered species habitat.

New Business

Planning & Zoning Boards

Rich Fini reported on the following Planning Board Meeting held on August 2, 2016:

- United Development Co., LLC, located at 121 Tuckahoe Road. This application was approved for preliminary site plan and minor subdivision.
- Harold Giloley, 700 Delsea Drive. Site plan waiver for interior improvement was approved.
- Fishpond Equities, 354 Hurffville Cross Keys Road. Preliminary and final site plan approved.
- Turnersville Development Associates, located at 3841 Route 42. Preliminary and final site plan approved.

Committee Reports

Open Space

Leon Lakritz mentioned that the Open Space Committee is considering the possibility of recommending the purchase of several properties suitable for Open Space preservation. He also commented about the success of the Community Garden and distributed copies of a front page article that appeared in the Washington Township Times.

Council

Council Liaison Sean Longfellow also acknowledged the success of the community garden and thought it was a great idea for residents who live in condos or who otherwise do not have access to a backyard. He also reported on the outcome of the proposed ordinance to ban stores selling commercially bred dogs in the Township. He also mentioned that he wants to draft an ordinance prohibiting the planting of bamboo in the Township because of its invasive and destructive nature.

Correspondence

Vicky Binetti shared the following information with the Commission:

- Monroe Township is holding a Green Fair, paper shredding event and Farmers' Market on October 1 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Sustainable Jersey is sponsoring a lunch and workshop on November 15 in Atlantic City.
- ANJEC Achievement Award applications are due September 5, and New Jersey Environmental Excellence Award applications are due September 28.
- The Library expressed interest to partner with another organization and participate in a traveling exhibit being sponsored by the New Jersey Council for the Arts in 2017-2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission