

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**P. O. Box 1106 523 Egg Harbor Road
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(Approved At December 1, 2016 Meeting)

Minutes of November 3, 2016 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leon Lakritz. Also attending tonight's meeting were Vicky Binetti, Harry Larzelere, Ann Culkin, Lola Pelligrino, Jodi Smith, Mark Phillips, Russ Price, Ed Andricola, Bill Neimeister, Brooke Evanko, Devin Walker and guest Michael Porreca. The minutes from the October 6, 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

Guests

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

There was no workshop meeting held in October.

Clean Up Day

Ann Culkin recognized the volunteers and Commission members who came out to support Clean Up Day and to make the event a great success. She reported that over 250 people participated, and

\$1,650 was raised in donations to help pay for the supplies and food for the barbeque. She also recognized Jill McCrea and Roy Dawson who helped to get the participation of the various clubs and organizations. Harry Larzelere thanked Anne Hastings and Ann Culkin for the outstanding job they did as co-chairwomen to organize the event and all the hard work and time they spent making sure that everything went smoothly.

Sustainable Jersey

Vicky Binetti reported that the Green Team Advisory Committee (GTAC) prepared a progress report and proposal for the Township's certification submission. (The full report is on the Township website.) Eighteen actions were identified to qualify towards a bronze certification in the Sustainable Jersey program. The next meeting of the GTAC will be held on November 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mayor's office. They plan to present an update on progress of the Environmental Resource Inventory which is expected to be an activity included as part of our application to be submitted in June 2017. Vicky noted that the GTAC has a web page under "Sustainable Township" on the website.

New Business

Planning & Zoning Boards

In Rich Fini's absence, Leon Lakritz discussed a proposed project by Royal Farms to build a gas station, convenience store and restaurant (frontage on Fries Mill Road and Hurffville-Cross Keys Road, adjacent to Vercchio's Produce). The project presents concern since it will be built in Tier 1 of well #19 of the Wellhead Protection area. Applicant is asking for several variances, one of which is the construction of two stormwater facilities (which would require conditional approval under the Wellhead Protection Ordinance). Vicky Binetti and Leon Lakritz attended a meeting of the Washington Township Municipal Utilities Authority (WTMUA) on November 1 to discuss the issues regarding the high risk of ground water contamination. Members of the WTMUA Board of Directors expressed concern and instructed their solicitor to request that the Zoning Board defer the hearing on the use variance for this project until the WTMUA has an opportunity to review the variance request, and define their position with regard to safeguarding the town's water quality. A motion was made by Ann Culkin, seconded by Harry Larzelere, and with all in favor, to send a letter outlining our concerns to the Zoning Board in advance of their next meeting.

2017 Earth Day/Arbor Day

Leon Lakritz announced that he would like to begin planning Earth Day/Arbor Day for 2017. Vicky Binetti reviewed the activities from last year and offered comments as to whether they should be continued this year. Leon proposed a workshop meeting this month to further discuss and asked Commission members to contribute new ideas. A volunteer will be needed to chair and organize the event. Vicky suggested we consider a small fair which would highlight environmental conservation programs.

Committee Reports

Open Space

The Open Space Advisory Committee is planning to complete a grant application to develop a community forestry program for the Township.

Council Report

No report in Sean Longfellow's absence.

Correspondence

Leon Lakritz announced that the Environmental Commission would host a trail walk led by Michael Hogan from South Jersey Land and Water Trust on Saturday, November 19th at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission