

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

(Approved at February 2, 2017 Meeting)

Minutes of January 5, 2017 Reorganization Meeting

The reorganization meeting was called to order by Secretary Dorothy Hunter. Present tonight were Leon Lakritz, Vicky Binetti, Harry Larzelere, Sean Longfellow, Anne Hastings, Russ Price, Lola Pellegrino, John Boyer, Bill Neimeister, and Devin Walker. The minutes of the December 1, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

First order of business was to open nominations for Chairman. On a motion made by Russ Price, seconded by Vicky Binetti, Leon Lakritz was nominated for the position of Chairman. With no other nominations, the vote was 6 in favor, one opposed. Leon Lakritz will continue as Chairman of the Environmental Commission for 2017.

Leon Lakritz then asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Anne Hastings nominated Vicky Binetti. Her motion was seconded by Russ Price. There were no other nominations. Unanimously Vicky Binetti was voted to serve as Vice Chair. For the position of Treasurer, Harry Larzelere was nominated by Anne Hastings. The nomination was seconded by Vicky Binetti. No other nominations for Treasurer were presented, and Harry Larzelere was unanimously voted Treasurer. Dorothy Hunter was re-appointed by Chairman Leon Lakritz to continue as secretary of the Environmental Commission.

Treasurer's Report

The Environmental Commission was given a temporary budget of approximately \$600 until the final budget is approved by Township Council.

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

A workshop meeting was held on December 15, 2016 to continue the planning of Earth Day/Arbor Day 2017.

Sustainable Jersey

Vicky Binetti reported that the Green Team Advisory Committee (GTAC) met on December 9, 2016 to review the status of actions planned for our Sustainable Jersey certification submission. Members were asked to report back at the next meeting if they foresee any obstacles or problems they may encounter in order to complete actions for which they have the lead. Vicky also announced that the committee is now in a position to apply for grants from the Sustainable Jersey Program to implement any of the necessary actions to obtain a bronze certification. Applications are due by the end of February 2017. She also mentioned that the Council Resolution that assigned the Green Team's mission expired at the end of 2016 and would need to be replicated in early 2017. Members of the Green Team will also need to be reappointed.

Environmental Resource Inventory

The contract to begin work on our Environmental Resource Inventory was signed with Land Conservatory of New Jersey (TLC-NJ). Barbara Davis will head the TLC-NJ group and will schedule a meeting shortly to discuss information needed from Washington Township. Vicky asked for volunteers to serve on the committee, and Devin Walker, John Boyer and Leon Lakritz offered to participate. John Boyer mentioned that the Planning Board appointed a three-person subcommittee to participate in the projects to update the Environmental Resource Inventory and Open Space Advisory Committee.

Earth Day/Arbor Day 2017

Earth Day is on April 22nd. Leon Lakritz distributed a list of suggested events for the Environmental Commission to consider for our Earth Day celebrations. Each of the proposed activities were discussed to determine whether they merit inclusion in the event and whether there was sufficient support to stage them. The Earth Day/Arbor Day program will begin with the Washington Township School District Art Show on March 21st and run through April 29, 2017. The activities include a reforestation project, events at the Margaret Heggan Library, and programs with the schools (e.g., stream sampling with fifth-grade Talented and Gifted students,

tree lessons with third-graders, tree plantings, live bird demonstrations, etc.). While general plans were settled, numerous details have yet to be finalized.

New Business

Planning & Zoning Board

In Rich Fini's absence, Leon Lakritz reported that the Zoning Board scheduled a regular meeting on January 11, 2017, following the Board's reorganization meeting, to hear the application for the All American Assisted Living facility proposed for Greentree Road, near the Heritage Valley development.

Annual Report

Vicky Binetti is preparing the annual report to Council which highlights the various activities of the Environmental Commission. Vicky asked the leads for activities to submit summaries of their events so she can combine the information in one report, to be submitted by the first of February. Vicky also asked members to provide her with photos they may have from the various events.

Committee Reports

Open Space

Leon Lakritz reported that the Township has received an additional reimbursement installment (\$825,000) from the Green Acres program for the purchase of the Smith-Garrison tract. Additional reimbursement is possible from the 2016 Green Acres funding pool.

Council

There was no report

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission