

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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**(Approved at May 3, 2018 Meeting)**

**Minutes of April 5, 2018 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicky Binetti. Also attending tonight's meeting were Anne Hastings, Ann Culkin, Russ Price, Leon Lakritz, Sean Longfellow, Chet Nawoyski, Bill Neimeister, George Gerber, Devin Walker, Jodi Smith, Lola Pellegrino, Mark Phillips, and Ed Andricola. The minutes of our March 1, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ann Culkin had no report.

**Old Business**

**Workshop Meeting**

A workshop meeting was held on March 15<sup>th</sup> to finalize Earth Day/Arbor Day activities. Plans for the HollyDell Ice Arena were received on March 15th and briefly reviewed during the workshop meeting. (Further discussion took place at the present Environmental Commission meeting; i.e., on April 5<sup>th</sup>; see below.)

## Annual Report

Vicky Binetti is preparing the Annual Report and will circulate a draft copy for review to Commission members prior to submission to the Mayor and Council.

## Sustainable Jersey

The Green Team Advisory Committee (GTAC) met most recently on Monday, April 2. At a previous meeting, Andrea Huhn, a volunteer for the Camden County Animal Shelter and a resident of Washington Township, spoke about the Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) programs; implementing a TNR program has been proposed as one of the actions towards a Silver certification in the Sustainable Jersey program. Council has prepared an ordinance, and the first reading was presented during the last Council meeting; the second reading is scheduled for the next Council meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Anne Hastings mentioned that there is no cost to the Township as Gloucester County has determined that TNR approach is less expensive than the policy in place to control the feral cat population.

The GTAC is also exploring arts and creative culture in the community as another possible action. Sub-committee members will be named to develop this plan. Sean Longfellow is working on an emergency management and resilience plan for the Township. For example, this could include a comprehensive emergency communications plan, and/or a listing of names and addresses of residents with special needs who would need assistance in the event of an emergency.

## Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

Vicky Binetti informed the Commission that the Township Administration is interested in making renovations to recreational facilities in Township parks as well as developing the area adjacent to Washington Lake off the Chapel Heights Road entrance to Washington Lake Park. The Administration proposes to fund these improvements by appropriating funds from the Open Space Trust Fund.

## ANJEC Environmental Commissioner's Training

The Environmental Commission hosted ANJEC's Environmental Commissioner's training at the Municipal Building on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The event was very successful, and Vicky Binetti thanked Anne Hastings for her detailed presentation on procedures to follow to conduct a successful Clean Up Day event. ANJEC will post the "tool kit" on their website.

## Earth Day/Arbor Day

Vicky Binetti reviewed upcoming events planned for Earth Day/Arbor Day to be held during the month of April. These events were publicized in the Calendar of Events in the *Washington Township Sun*; a few were also listed in the *Washington Township Neighbors* monthly publications. Due to the prediction of inclement weather, the rain barrel workshop scheduled for April 7 is postponed until April 21<sup>st</sup>. A location will be determined. Additionally, the tote bag painting event is also being postponed until a future date in April. Duffields will be holding an Earth Day event ("Down-to-Earth Food Truck Festival) at their farm market on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Environmental Commission will be participating, and Vicky asked for volunteers to assist at our table. The stream sampling/macroinvertebrate teaching exercise held with 5<sup>th</sup> grade TAG students is scheduled for the same day. Volunteers will also be needed to help both at Grenloch Lake and in the laboratory at Orchard Valley Middle School.

### Bluebird and Monarch Projects

Seven additional Bluebird houses have been donated by the NJ Bluebird Society and will be installed at selected Open Space locations throughout Washington Township. No date for installation has been determined.

Milkweed plants, the primary food source of Monarch butterfly caterpillars, are being grown from seed in the Township's greenhouse. These will be planted in the Park and the Community Garden, and distributed on Super Saturday to residents wishing to grow the plants and help in the proliferation of Monarch butterflies.

### Super Saturday

Super Saturday is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 4 p.m. Volunteers will be needed to host the Environmental Commission's table. Volunteers as of the meeting included Leon Lakritz, Vicky Binetti, Anne Hastings, Devin Walker and Mark Phillips.

### Recruitment

Several ideas to encourage new members to join the Environmental Commission were discussed. Leon Lakritz reminded members to continue to identify possible recruits who have environmental interests and could contribute to our organization.

### **New Business**

### Planning & Zoning Boards

In Rich Fini's absence, Vicky Binetti discussed the following applications:

- Holydell Ice Arena – The applicant is planning a minor and making some small changes in the interior of the building. One tree over 10" is being removed. The Planning Board hearing was Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. The current snack bar will be replaced with a new restaurant and bar. The applicant has an agreement with the nearby school to utilize their parking lot when school is not in session. The Planning Board approved the application.
- Children of America – This minor site plan is for a parcel located on Route #42. Two office buildings currently occupy the site, and they will be altered to include a daycare center.
- Fishpond Equities – This application was approved. The Planning Board has determined that the nature of the proposed use of the site does not require further reduction in soil arsenic concentrations.

### ANJEC

ANJEC is accepting applications for Open Space Stewardship Project Grants, and Vicky Binetti asked members to give some thought as to projects that might be eligible for such a grant as the deadline to submit is fast approaching.

## Committees-Reports

### Council

Council Liaison Sean Longfellow mentioned that the former Watson Turkey site is under consideration for sale by the Township. The Township annual shredding event was postponed until June 9<sup>th</sup> due to inclement weather. He anticipates that the Township budget for 2018 will be adopted on May 9, 2018.

### Open Space

If approved by the Township, Leon Lakritz said the Open Space Committee would like to apply for a matching grant from the NJ Department of Forestry to hire a forester to develop a forestry plan.

A split rail fence with metal mesh has been erected around the perimeter of the Community Garden. A mesh screen to deter deer from damaging crops will also be installed.

Second appraisals on the Stoyko and Chew parcels are expected to be completed shortly. Leon Lakritz noted that several other properties may become available for purchase as open space.

Leon mentioned that the Food & Water Watch of Gloucester County plans to approach municipalities in Gloucester County to adopt resolutions to eliminate fossil fuel consumption by 2035.

### Announcements

Vicky announced that ANJEC is hosting a Climate Conversation Workshop on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Mauricetown, NJ from 5:30 to 8:30 pm if anyone is interested in attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

*/s/Dorothy Hunter*

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary  
Washington Township Environmental Commission