

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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

(856) 589-0520, Ext. 232

wtec@twp.washington.nj.us

(Approved at August 2, 2018 Meeting)

Minutes of July 5, 2018 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicky Binetti. Also in attendance were Anne Hastings, Leon Lakritz, Lola Pellegrino, and Russ Price and guest Suzan Preiksas. The minutes of the June 7, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.

Guests

The Environmental Commission welcomed guests Jocelyn Sawyer, South Jersey organizer of Food & Water Watch and Mike Delozier, Gloucester County Food & Water Watch. Jocelyn talked about the organization's mission to promote healthy food and clean water. With the help of volunteers, the organization educates communities and works with elected officials to draft resolutions to ensure safe food and clean water. Jocelyn spoke before Washington Township Council on May 9th to encourage a resolution in support of the "Off" (Off Fossil Fuels) Act," a bill introduced in the New Jersey Assembly and Senate, the goal of which is to shift 100% from fossil fuels to wind, solar and geothermal renewable energy by 2035 to reduce the pace of climate change. Food & Water Watch provided a sample Municipal Resolution for review. The discussion included questions regarding the technological feasibility of achieving the goal of the OFF Act; whether the Act considered how costs associated with implementation at the local level could be compensated; and how the OFF Act compared with a bill proposed at the Federal level. Ms. Sawyer indicated that she would provide additional information, as well as a list of municipalities that had adopted supporting resolutions.

Treasurer's Report

There was no report in Treasurer Ann Culkin's absence.

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

There was no workshop meeting in June.

Sustainable Jersey

Vicky Binetti and Leon Lakritz attended the Sustainability Summit on June 21, at The College of New Jersey. Tammy Snyder Murphy, First Lady of New Jersey, delivered the keynote address and spoke about New Jersey's energy plan under Governor Phil Murphy, coalition building and achieving sustainability goals. Vicky mentioned that there is an organization called the Tri-County Sustainability Alliance that meets periodically, and their next meeting is scheduled on July 31 in Cherry Hill. Vicky also shared a pre-publication copy of the "Water Conservation Guide" which is a joint project of the Environmental Commission and the Washington Township Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA), the printing of which was funded, in part, by a grant from the Sustainable Jersey program. The MUA also provided funds for printing the guide.

The Township is sponsoring an incentive program, Shop Washington Township, to encourage people to shop locally. Vicky Binetti mentioned that this program is not only open to residents, who receive a credit on their property taxes, but to others, such as tenants and non-residents, who will receive a cash reimbursement based on the amount of their purchases at the participating businesses.

Open Space

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Update has been finalized and is available for review on the Township website; a link to the document appears under the "News Flash" section on the home page. Paper copies are also available for review in the Clerk's office and the Margaret E. Heggan Library,

Barbara Davis of the Land Conservancy of New Jersey will give a final presentation before the Planning Board on July 10th, and it is anticipated that the Board will adopt the Plan as an amendment to the Township Master Plan.

Bluebird Project

Suzan Preiksats, member of the Gloucester County Nature Club, attended our meeting tonight to report on the activities at the Bluebird nesting boxes placed at various open space locations in the Township. She noted that three nestlings were banded on July 3rd. One additional box contained four baby Bluebirds, and another box had six eggs.

Recruitment

Leon Lakritz noted again that letters are being sent by Vicky Binetti to individuals who attended our Earth Day lectures and activities and visited our Super Saturday table and indicated an interest in the Environmental Commission. The local newspaper, "Washington Township Sun", has mentioned our

meeting times and interest in recruiting volunteers at the end of Environmental Commission articles printed in their newspapers.

Gloucester County Nature Club Firefly Festival

Vicky Binetti reminded the Commission of the upcoming Firefly Festival on July 21 (rain date July 22) in the Tall Pines State Preserve. Details can be found on the Gloucester County Nature Club's website.

Trap, Neuter & Release Ordinance (TNR)

Anne Hastings reported that an ordinance was drafted based on a sample ordinance in effect in Gloucester County. We are anticipating an update from Council President Joe Perry and Councilman Sean Longfellow who are the leading forces behind the proposed legislation.

New Business

Planning & Zoning Boards

There was no report in Rich Fini's absence

Block 195, Lot 14.02 – Revelations Salon

This project involves a small house on Greentree Road and is a major site plan because a change in use is being requested. Currently the site is zoned "residential", and Applicant seeks to change zoning to "commercial" in order to convert the house to a beauty salon. The project will add 1240 sq. feet to the existing building and will include 12 parking spaces and a storm water basin. Applicant has requested a waiver from a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Environmental Impact Statement and an Environmental Impact Worksheet. They have not identified trees 4" or greater as required by the tree ordinance. The next meeting of the Zoning Board is scheduled for Monday, July 9th. The Environmental Commission voted unanimously to prepare a recommendation letter to the Zoning Board prior to this meeting. It was agreed that the Commission would recommend that the applicant complete the Environmental Impact Worksheet.

Washington Square Redevelopment Zone

An ordinance has been introduced by the Washington Township Council to permit an additional use in the Washington Square Redevelopment Zone, in the area near to the Black Horse Pike. The proposed additional use is for a convenience store, with fueling centers and limited indoor and outdoor seating. Township Council will vote on the proposed ordinance on July 25th.

Meadows Run Condominiums (Fries Mill Road)

Anne Hastings reported that, on or about June 22, 2018, the management at Meadows Run Condominiums arranged to have several dozen Canada geese killed. This time of the year the birds are molting and cannot fly. Management has been informed on previous occasions that there are other

more humane ways to control the geese population through proper landscaping techniques. So far they have not expressed an interest in making the suggested changes.

Expenditures

Leon Lakritz proposed reimbursing Vicky Binetti \$100 from our stationery fund to cover her purchase of printer cartridges relative to WTEC work. His motion was seconded by Russ Price, and the vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports

Open Space

Leon Lakritz mentioned that a bike share program is being considered by the Township. He also mentioned that they are awaiting a land survey report in order to make a decision on the renovation of the Washington Lake area.

Council Report

No report in Sean Longfellow's absence,

Correspondence

Vicky Binetti shared a letter she received from the elementary school teachers of the Talented and Gifted Program thanking the Commission for the stream sampling/macrobenthos identification event enjoyed by their students, which was held during our Earth Day celebration.

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

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission