

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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(Approved at June 7, 2018 Meeting)

Minutes of May 3, 2018 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Anne Hastings. (Chair Vicky Binetti was delayed due to participation in a Planning Board meeting.) Also in attendance were Leon Lakritz, Ann Culkin, Russ Price, Mark Phillips, Jodi Smith, Chet Nawoyski, and guests Sarah Geiger, Kristen McLaughlin and Rick Eckert. The minutes of our April 3, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ann Culkin reported that we have a balance of \$250 in our temporary budget.

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

There was no workshop meeting in April.

Recruitment

Leon Lakritz is continuing his recruitment drive for new members for the Environmental Commission. A suggestion was made to follow up with a letter of introduction to residents who attended our Earth Day lectures during April and expressed interest.

Sustainable Jersey

The next meeting of the Green Team Advisory Committee is scheduled for May 7th in Mayor Gattinelli's office. Council has postponed acting on an ordinance relating to controlling stray cats and

reducing euthanasia until certain issues are resolved. The GTAC plans to start the next phase towards a silver certification, and they are looking into developing an arts and creative culture program, identifying talented Washington Township residents accomplished in the arts. A new logo for Washington Township's Sustainability Program is being developed with the help of GTAC member Brian Bailey, President of the Greater Washington Township Chamber of Commerce.

Vicky Binetti announced that a Sustainability Summit is being held at the College of New Jersey on June 21. She made a motion to allow two Commission members to attend this seminar. Anne Hastings seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Open Space Plan

Vicky Binetti noted that completion of the Open Space & Recreation Plan update has been delayed because of the temporary unavailability of the contractor.

Super Saturday

Devin Walker, Anne Hastings, Leon Lakritz and Vicky Binetti volunteered to host our table at Super Saturday on May 12th. Vicky asked for additional help if anyone is available.

Blue Bird Houses/Monarch Butterflies

Seven new Blue Bird nesting boxes have been installed, and Vicky Binetti advised that a caretaker has been assigned to monitor each bird house.

Vicky also mentioned that Erik Mollenhauer from Gloucester County Nature Club presented a seminar on Monarch butterflies to a full house on Monday, April 30. Each attendee was offered a milkweed plant, the main food source for Monarch caterpillars, if they were interested in growing the plant in their garden and help with the proliferation of these beautiful butterflies.

New Business

Planning & Zoning

- Planning Board

Vicky Binetti reviewed the site history of the Royal Farms project and discussed the environmental issues relative to its location in Tier 1 of a wellhead protection area that could impact our drinking water. She attended the Planning Board meeting earlier this evening on behalf of the Commission to present our objections and concerns.

Committee Reports

Open Space

Leon Lakritz announced that the Open Space Advisory Committee is in the process of reviewing the two appraisals received for the Stoyko and Chew properties before making a decision to recommend any purchase of the properties as open space.

Announcements

Gloucester County Firefly Festival

On July 21 (rain date July 22), the Gloucester County Nature Club (GCNC) will be hosting a Firefly Festival at the Tall Pines State Preserve beginning at dusk. The Commission was asked to be a co-sponsor, and our organization will be listed in their flyer. The GCNC will appreciate any volunteers who might help in the event.

Bird Quest

The Gloucester County Nature Club will be hosting their annual Bird Quest on Saturday, May 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission