

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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(Approved at December 6, 2018 Meeting)

Minutes of November 1, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vicky Binetti. Also attending tonight's meeting were Ann Culkin, Sean Longfellow, Leon Lakritz, Chet Nawoyski, Jodi Smith, and Lola Pellegrino. The minutes of our October 4, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ann Culkin reported a balance of \$1,520.67 in our budget. Members were asked to submit any outstanding bills for Environmental Commission activities or expenditures.

Old Business

Workshop

There was no workshop meeting in October.

Sustainable Jersey

Vicky Binetti announced that Washington Township was approved for recertification in the Sustainable Jersey Program at the Bronze level. The Township will now work towards the next level, a Silver certification. The annual Sustainable Jersey Luncheon will be held during the League of Municipalities meeting in Atlantic City on November 13th. Vicky and Leon Lakritz will attend the award luncheon on behalf of the Township.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Jersey Green Team Advisory Committee (GTAC) will be held on November 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mayor's office. WTEC members are welcome to attend.

The Tri County Sustainability Alliance (TriCSA), a coalition of municipal Green Teams from Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties, has applied for, and received, a grant of approximately \$3,000 to purchase movies and documentaries about topics dealing with sustainability. The Environmental Commission will be able to present these movies at our events such as Earth Day. TriCSA is asking members to submit their recommendations for movies to be purchased by the end of November. Vicky Binetti mentioned that a smaller group within TriCSA has obtained a \$600 grant to develop an event to develop educational materials on food waste and composting.

Earth Day/Arbor Day

Ann Culkin reported that the Earth Day account has a balance of \$897.75. Activities for next year's event were discussed, noting that we will be adding sustainable movies to the agenda which will be funded by the Sustainable Jersey grant. Vicky Binetti mentioned that the South Jersey Times recently published an article highlighting the impact of climate change, with a focus on New Jersey. The Environmental Commission has voiced its support of actions to address factors contributing to climate change and sponsored an educational exhibit on the impacts and effects of climate change in the Margaret Heggan Library in April of this year.

Clean Up Day

Vicky Binetti thanked Environmental Commission members for a successful Clean Up Day event on October 13th. Local Channel 9 is showing clips of the activities held that day. Ann Culkin reported that we received donations in the amount of \$650. She also mentioned that the balance in the Clean Up Day fund is \$2,870.56. Thank you notes have been mailed to the various businesses and individuals who made contributions. Vicky asked that members give some thought as to whether we want to continue this program next year in its present format or whether we would like to change the format and develop additional goals.

Bluebird/Monarch Butterflies Projects

Vicky Binetti shared the quarterly report published by the Bluebird Society for Fall of 2018, in which the efforts of Washington Township to foster additional bluebird nesting boxes are highlighted.

Vicky mentioned that we will begin to grow milkweed plants starting in March 2019 so that the plants will be ready in time for the Monarch Butterfly season. Milkweed seeds will be purchased from the Earth Day account.

Proposed Ordinance: Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (Feral Cats)

A meeting was held in October with Mayor Gattinelli, Council President Joe Perry and Vice President Sean Longfellow, the Township solicitor, and various members of the animal welfare groups to discuss the proposed Township ordinance relative to the feral cat population. Issues regarding registration and funding were discussed for the program that would provide spay/neutering, vaccination and microchips for the animals. A pilot program was suggested as a first option, and the group discussed that it would be useful to develop metrics to determine the program's success over a period of time and to evaluate its success.

Proposed Resolution: OFF (Off Fossil Fuels) Act

The Commission previously voted to work with Township Council to adopt a resolution in support of this proposed State legislation. To begin the process and raise awareness, Chet Nawoyski and Ann Culkin completed and filed the online form to officially register our interest. Chet mentioned that there is in the New Jersey Legislature a bill with five sponsors, but to date no vote has been taken on this subject.

Trail Guide

Leon Lakritz, Vicky Binetti and four Rowan interns continue to work on the Poplar trail guide which will serve as a prototype for the other trails in Washington Lake Park. Mike Hogan, local naturalist and photographer, walked the trail with the students on two occasions. Stakes were placed to mark locations of noteworthy plants and trees. The markers will be replaced with permanent signs having QR (quick response) codes, linking to more detailed information pertaining to those sites/plants. The students are also compiling information on the history of Washington Lake Park, and on birds, plants, mammals and fish indigenous to the Park. Another objective is to have this information available on the Washington Township website so it is accessible to residents while they walk the park trails.

Annual ANJEC Congress

Vicky Binetti and Leon Lakritz attended the 45th Annual ANJEC Congress on October 12th. Vicky circulated a copy of the program booklet for the Commission's information. The keynote speaker was former New Jersey Governor, Christine Todd Whitman.

Royal Farms

Developer Mark McOrmond met with Vicky Binetti and Leon Lakritz in October to discuss our concerns with the Royal Farms project. Vicky discussed our concerns regarding storm water runoff from the area around the gasoline dispensing pumps and the efficacy of filters proposed for the project in removing pollutants.

Environmental Commission Meeting Start Time

After discussion and a vote, it was decided that the Commission will return to its original meeting start time of 7:30 p.m. effective December 6, 2018.

New Business

Planning & Zoning Boards

- Planning Board

Big Swing Golf Club, 312 Salina Road, Block 16, Lot 7.02 – B Mills Realty LLC proposes to construct a Go-Kart Track (14 Go Karts) on a portion of a 28+ acre lot. Presently the site is field and wooded lot. Applicant submitted a Minor Site Plan and is requesting waivers of Phase I ESA, EIS, EI Worksheet and tree plan. (The project is likely more appropriately considered an amended Major Site Plan.) This project is scheduled to come before the Planning Board next week. Vicky Binetti highlighted various aspects of the proposal and

what is required of the Applicant. A motion was made by Leon Lakritz, seconded by Ann Culkun, that Vicky Binetti will prepare a letter to be presented to the Planning Board with our comments and concerns, noting particularly the documentation required, stormwater management, and containment around a fuel tank on the property. The motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Open Space

Council has recently passed a resolution to authorize an appraisal of a property on Cross Keys-Glassboro Road, adjacent to the Wrenfield development and in a wellhead protection area. Leon Lakritz said that the Township is considering the purchase of this site as open space.

Sean Longfellow discussed the Stoyko and Chew properties which are also being considered for purchase as open space, and he agreed to follow up with the State of New Jersey regarding documents they are reviewing.

Leon Lakritz noted that the Community Garden ended its season very successfully. Currently the committee is working to clean up the garden in preparation for the spring planting season.

Council

Sean Longfellow reported that the Watson Turkey facility on the Black Horse Pike has been gutted with only the exterior walls standing, and they will be demolished in the near future.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission