

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**P. O. Box 1106 523 Egg Harbor Road
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(Approved at November 1, 2018 Meeting)

Minutes of October 4, 2018 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicky Binetti. Also attending tonight's meeting were Anne Hastings, Leon Lakritz, Mark Phillips, Ann Culkin and Chet Nawoyski. Minutes of the September 6, 2018 meeting were approved as presented. Anne Hastings abstained from the vote as she was not present at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ann Culkin reported a balance of \$339.60¹ as of 10/3/18.

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

Vice Chair Anne Hastings and Leon Lakritz facilitated the workshop meeting on September 20 in Vicky Binetti's absence. Anne briefly reviewed the status of activities related to Clean-Up Day. Leon reviewed the site plan and application submitted by Legacy Assets for the potential Royal Farms project. A motion was made by Anne Hastings to allow Vicky Binetti to prepare a letter to the Zoning Board with our comments and concerns.

¹ Correct amount is approximately \$1500.

Sustainable Jersey

The Township has applied for and expects to receive its Bronze recertification. The goal now is to proceed to secure a Silver certification in 2019. Vicky Binetti announced that Sustainable Jersey grants for sustainability projects organized by regional “hubs” are available, up to \$10,000. The deadline to apply is October 7, 2018. She said that Washington Township will join in the TriCounty Sustainability Alliance (TriCSA) application, led by Mt. Laurel and Monroe Township, for funds to obtain a license to show movies on sustainability topics. All green teams in TriCSA region (Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties) will be able to participate.

Leon Lakritz reported that Gloucester County offered free rain barrels and composters to interested municipalities. Leon accepted their offer on behalf of the Environmental Commission, and members discussed how we might distribute the 20 rain barrels and 20 composting units received. Suggestions included holding a composting seminar, and Anne Hastings thought several could be placed at the Community Garden in the Park.

Earth Day/Arbor Day

Vicky Binetti urged members to start planning now for our 2019 Earth Day/Arbor Day events and decide on the format. Since the lectures at the Margaret E. Heggan Library had successful participation, Anne Hastings suggested we continue that activity next year. Vicky Binetti was in favor of continuing the Monarch Butterfly and Bluebird projects which were initiated this year. She acknowledged that growing milkweed, the primary source of food for Monarchs, is a concern because the plant can be difficult to grow in the early stages, as it needs watering until established.

Clean Up Day

Clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, October 13th. The Commission reviewed assigned tasks. The new start time this year is 10:00 a.m.; clean-up duties will be followed by a noontime barbeque in Washington Lake Park. Currently there are 134 participants. Anne Hastings discussed the tri-fold brochure which we distribute on Clean Up Day. Vicky Binetti volunteered to provide an article for the centerfold on plastic pollution, and Anne will update the donor and volunteer lists. Vicky has obtained a quote to print 150 of the brochures if we use last year’s format. Community Service letters and certificates will be given to volunteers at the barbeque.

Anne Hastings noted that there are no sites this year that require police presence. Packing boxes with cleaning supplies and T-shirts will take place on the Thursday night before the event (October 11th) in the Municipal Building. Vicky Binetti volunteered to collect empty boxes from local businesses.

Proposed Trap Neuter and Release (TNR) Ordinance

Anne Hastings announced that the next meeting to discuss the proposed TNR ordinance will be on October 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Mayor Gattinelli's office. Council members will be present.

Proposed Resolution: OFF (Off Fossil Fuels) Act

Chet Nawoyski had no report.

Trail Guide

Leon Lakritz and Vicky Binetti meet on a regular basis with student interns from Rowan University to discuss how best to disseminate information on the flora and fauna adjacent to the trails in Washington Lake Park. They are currently considering labeling trees and other items with QR (Quick Response) codes. QR Codes are similar to bar codes, and when used in conjunction with cell phones, provide instant information to trail walkers to identify plants and trees along the way. Mike Hogan, local naturalist and photographer, has offered to provide professional assistance to help with the identification process.

New Business

Planning and Zoning

Royal Farms

The next hearing on this matter is scheduled for October 15, 2018. Vicky Binetti commented that the application appears to be compliant with regard to tank construction, monitoring and maintenance plans are concerned. She is looking into how runoff on the site is collected and separated and whether/how it is treated. Vicky and Leon Lakritz will be meeting with applicant Mark McOrmond (at his request) to discuss and clarify our concerns.

Committee Reports

Open Space

Leon Lakritz discussed Township properties under consideration for purchase as open space. The Committee continues to consider the Stoyko and Chew properties.

Council

No report in Sean Longfellow's absence

Announcements

There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission