

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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

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(Approved at January 9, 2020 Meeting)

Minutes of November 7, 2019 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicky Binetti. Also attending tonight's meeting were Anne Hastings, Ann Culkin, Leon Lakritz, Peter Garbowski, Leon Lakritz, Lola Pelligrino, Jodi Smith, and guest Meghan Rollins, NJDEP Watershed Ambassador. The minutes from the October 3, 2019 meeting were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report

Ann Culkin, Treasurer, reported a balance in our budget of \$2,659.19.

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

There was no workshop meeting in October.

Sustainable Jersey

Vicky Binetti was happy to report that Washington Township has received official notice that the Township has been recertified at the Bronze level. The Township currently has 330 points towards a Silver certification, and there is a possibility we may reach the required 350 points to be certified as Silver by year's end. The certification is valid for three years.

Vicky announced that the Tri-County Sustainability Alliance will hold an Energy Efficiency Summit on January 22, 2020 from 6 to 8 pm in the Haddonfield Boro Hall. Participants will learn key strategies to lower their individual and community greenhouse gas emissions. The Summit is open to all business owners, homeowners, renters, and municipal officials.

Bluebird Project

Vicky Binetti reported to the NJ Bluebird Society that 54 bluebirds were fledged this year in the bluebird boxes that the Environmental Commission placed in the Township's parks and open spaces as part of our efforts to increase the bluebird population.

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

There was no report in Council Vice President Sean Longfellow's absence, but Vicky Binetti announced that she expected the resolution on community commitment to companion animal management to be passed next week. The resolution is a prerequisite to achieving points in the Sustainable Jersey program for other animal education and care actions. The ordinance on a Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release program, when passed, would enable residents to feed feral cats and care for them without being fined; reduce the population of stray cats; and reduce the euthanasia rate for the animals.

Proposed Resolution: Support OFF (Off Fossil Fuels) Act

There was no report.

ANJEC Grant – Poplar Trail

Leon Lakritz mentioned that he has arranged to discuss the feasibility of using the material that Public Works uses to fabricate signs for the Township for possible use for signs on the Poplar Trail in Washington Lake Park.

ANJEC Environmental Congress

Vicky Binetti and Leon Lakritz attended the conference on October 4, 2019 at the Mercer County College. The Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection was the featured speaker, and Vicky commented that it was a very positive and informative meeting.

Recycling

The Township is moving forward to re-educate and familiarize Township residents on the new recycling guidelines. Companies are becoming more stringent on accepting contaminated items in their collections and are fining municipalities for infractions. The Environmental Commission is hosting the showing of a film entitled "Bag-It" at the Margaret E. Heggan Library on Thursday, November 14 which promotes keeping plastic bags out of the environment. To celebrate America Recycles Day on November 14, the Environmental Commission is planning to have an appropriate display at the Library as well. Vicky Binetti advised that Amy Falasca, Public Works Department, is initiating a program to collect bottle caps for recycling.

New Business

AmeriCorps

Leon Lakritz welcomed guest, Meghin Rollins, to our meeting. She is a NJDEP Watershed Ambassador, and she gave an overview of the roles that Ambassadors play in the community. She mentioned that they conduct presentations in schools and various local organizations on watershed education. They also partner with groups on a variety of projects and do waterbody assessments in conjunction with the NJDEP. Meghin offered her expertise to help us in one of our activities to identify and remove invasive species of plants in the Township. The Environmental Commission would enlist the help of groups such as Scouts, or school groups like SAVE and Roots & Shoots to participate in this event.

Planning & Zoning Boards

Vicky Binetti reported on the following projects before the Planning Board:

- Atlantic City Electric (ACE) has a meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 9 at the Senior Center to meet with residents whose properties back up to ACE's proposed larger substation to be built on Hurffville-Grenloch Road, where the old Grenloch Fire Hall was located.
- WAWA (convenience store with fuel sales and fast food restaurant with drive-thru) is proposed near Five Points (Egg Harbor and Blackwood-Barnsboro Roads). The Environmental Commission examined the plans for this project and discussed issues that warrant clarification. A motion was made by Ann Culkin, and seconded by Jodi Smith, to have Vicky Binetti prepare a letter incorporating our comments. The motion was unanimously passed.

Committee Reports

Open Space

Leon Lakritz reported that the outstanding questions regarding the purchase of property on Hurffville-Grenloch Road have been resolved between the owners of the property and the Township, and it appears this open space purchase is about to proceed. Leon also mentioned that a second property is under consideration for purchase on Glassboro-Cross Keys Road. Leon said he will keep the Commission updated on the progress.

Council

There was no report in Sean Longfellow's absence.

Correspondence

There was no report.

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

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

**Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission**