

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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**(Approved at November 7, 2019 Meeting)**

**Minutes of October 3, 2019 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicky Binetti. Also attending tonight's meeting were Anne Hastings, Leon Lakritz, Mark Phillips, Jodi Smith, and Peter Garbowski. The September minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

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

**Old Business**

**Workshop Meeting**

There was no workshop meeting in September.

**Sustainable Jersey**

The Green Team Advisory Committee (GTAC) is in the process of completing tasks towards a Silver certification. Vicky Binetti mentioned that the Sustainable Jersey Program is hosting their annual luncheon in November in Atlantic City, and the GTAC expects Washington Township to be recognized at

that time for having qualified for the Bronze certification. She also announced that an energy summit will be held in January 2020, sponsored by the TriCounty Sustainability Alliance.

#### Clean Up Day

Anne Hastings, co-chair of Clean Up Day, reviewed the list of members assigned to certain tasks to be sure they are available to cover. Clean Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 12. The sites to be cleaned are being determined. Anne noted we have been assigned three police units, and she will decide which three locations need police assistance. We have 169 volunteers. A barbeque and award ceremony will take place at noon in the park. Local and State government officials have been invited to attend. Certificates for community service points will be provided to participating students.

#### Bluebird Project

A total of 54 Bluebirds fledged this year from the nesting boxes placed around the Township as part of our project to help increase the Bluebird population.

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

Council adopted a resolution on September 11, 2019 declaring Washington Township an animal-friendly community and committing to responsible management of companion animals. This is a prerequisite to obtain points towards our next Sustainable Jersey certification in the group of actions related to animals in the community. We anticipate that this will be followed by proposal of an ordinance to establish a TNVR program in the Township.

#### Proposed Ordinance: OFF (Off Fossil Fuels)

There was no report in the absence of Ann Culkin and Chet Nawoyski.

#### ANJEC Grant – Poplar Trail

Leon Lakritz and Vicky Binetti have been working with the Career and Technical Education program at Washington Township High School. They had a successful meeting recently with two faculty members who are willing to work with their students to fabricate markers and pedestal signs for the Poplar Trail. We hope we can also engage the Graphic Arts program to assist in the design of the signs.

#### Environmental Commissioner's Award

Peter Garbowski reported that he has been working jointly with Ann Culkin to have the 2019 Commissioner's award plaque made for the official presentation to Jim McCann at the Clean-Up Day barbeque.

#### ANJEC Environmental Congress

Vicky Binetti and Leon Lakritz will represent the Commission at the ANJEC Environmental Congress held at Mercer County College on October 4. It is an annual event and a day well spent gathering valuable environmental information.

## Recycling

Washington Township has begun its recycling campaign and plan to educate residents with the types of materials to recycle. November 15<sup>th</sup> marks “America Recycles Day”, and to commemorate, the Commission has borrowed from ANJEC a film depicting the dangers of plastic in the environment. It is entitled, “Bag-It” which will be shown at the Margaret E. Heggan Library on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

## New Business

### Planning Board

- Prestige Auto - Vicky Binetti mentioned that the Commission sent a no comment letter to the Planning Board relative to the new door to the auto service area that applicant proposes to install.
- Washington Township/Jefferson Health – There is a proposal to install two 42-foot signs on the Black Horse Pike; one on the property of Ameci Fence on the Black Horse Pike and another near the Wal-Mart shopping center. Both Washington Township merchants and Jefferson Health would be featured on each of the signs. Applicant has asked for certain waivers from environmental documents. We would have no objection to this request since applicant would not be increasing impervious areas to install the signs. However, one of the sites was a former Gulf service station and is in a wellhead protection area. There are six underground tanks, and these would have to be removed properly. A motion was made by Leon Lakritz, seconded by Anne Hastings, to prepare a comment letter to the Planning Board with our recommendations and concerns. The motion was unanimously passed.
- Solar Energy Partners – Applicant proposes to put up a solar field on 7.15 acres behind the Archway School. Since we have not been provided with a tree plan, a motion was made by Anne Hastings, seconded by Leon Lakritz, that a letter be prepared and sent to applicant requesting the submission of this document.

## Committee Reports

### Open Space

Leon Lakritz reported that the Open Space Committee is currently taking under consideration the purchase of certain properties for open space. He will keep the Commission informed as to developments.

### Council

There was no report in Sean Longfellow’s absence.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

*/s/ Dorothy Hunter*

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary  
Washington Township Environmental Commission