

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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(Approved at February 1, 2018 Meeting)

Minutes of January 18, 2018 Reorganization Meeting

The reorganization meeting to elect new officers was called to order by Secretary Dorothy Hunter. Present tonight were Leon Lakritz, Vicky Binetti, Anne Hastings, Lola Pellegrino, Mark Phillips, Jodi Smith, Devin Walker, Pam Speziali and Ann Culkin. The minutes of the December 7, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

First order of business was to open nominations for Chairman. On a motion made by Leon Lakritz, seconded by Anne Hastings, Vicky Binetti was nominated for the position of Chairman. With no other nominations, the vote was unanimous to elect Vicky Binetti Chairman of the Environmental Commission for 2018.

Chairman Vicky Binetti then asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Vicky Binetti nominated Anne Hastings. Her motion was seconded by Leon Lakritz. There were no other nominations. Unanimously Anne Hastings was voted to serve as Vice Chair. For the position of Treasurer, Ann Culkin was nominated by Leon Lakritz. The nomination was seconded by Devin Walker. No other nominations for Treasurer were presented, and Ann Culkin was unanimously voted Treasurer.

Guests

Robert Mintz, Esquire, representing the applicant Provco Sicklerville, LLC, attended tonight's meeting. The former D'Eva Furniture Store located on the Black Horse Pike (Block 108.02, Lot 1.02) will be demolished. A new project consisting of two restaurants and one retail store will be built; Panda Express has been identified as one of the restaurants, with a drive-in window. Three exits/entrances into the property are proposed. The site is located in Tier II of a wellhead protection area. There appears to be no underground storage tanks and no septic system; there is an irrigation well on-site.

It was unclear from the submitted materials whether/where there are existing trees on the property; Robert Mintz noted that, according to the landscape plan, 13 trees will be planted. A tree removal permit and, if appropriate, a tree removal/replacement plan will be required. Applicant is apparently seeking a waiver from an Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Worksheet (EIW). Although no justification has been provided for waivers, the Environmental Commission would recommend that an EIW be prepared, at minimum. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment submitted is dated August 2014, and would require updating. The Stormwater Management Plan indicates that portions of the site would drain to rights-of-way on Tuckahoe Road and the Black Horse Pike, and the remainder would drain to an underground detention basin, and then to the County system. Vicky Binetti recommended using manufactured treatment devices for pre-treatment of stormwater before entry to the underground basin. Vicky Binetti suggested that the roof runoff be directed to the underground basin, as well. The Commission agreed to send a letter with our comments to the Planning Board.

Treasurer

Anne Hastings presented the following financial report as of January 3, 2018:

Environmental Commission: \$1,278.15¹

Clean Up Day: \$2,739.69 (does not include an expected reimbursement from the Park fund of \$894 for the 2017 Clean Up Day tent rental)

Earth Day: \$1,125.97

The Environmental Commission requested a budget of \$3200 for 2018. The request includes funds for an outdoor banner (to replace one that was damaged), supplies to expand our Bluebird program and initiate a Monarch Butterfly project, and printing additional copies of the Trail Guide for Washington Lake Park.

¹ This reflects a late balance from 2017; the temporary budget for 2018 has not yet been allocated.

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

Leon Lakritz said that no workshop meeting was held in December.

Sustainable Jersey

Vicky Binetti announced that the next meeting of the Green Team will be held on Monday, February 5, 2018, in the Mayor's office at 6:00 p.m. Environmental Commission members (and other interested parties) are welcome to attend.

Open Space

The first draft of the Open Space and Recreation plan has been completed, and Vicky shared a copy with the Commission tonight. The second draft incorporating our comments will be available on/about February 9^t. – Barbara Davis of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey will give a brief overview before Council at their February 28th meeting, when there will be an opportunity for comments. Ultimately the Plan will be presented to the Planning Board for adoption. Residents will be able to view the draft plan on the Township website; paper copies will be available for review at the Municipal Building and at the Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library.

ANJEC Training

Vicky Binetti reminded the Commission that we will be hosting the ANJEC Environmental Commissioners training on March 24th in the Washington Township Municipal Building from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If anyone has suggestions or ideas to enhance the program, please contact Vicky. She thought we could highlight our successful Clean Up Day event with a short presentation and/or preparation of a "tool kit" on how to organize a similar program.

Recruitment

Leon Lakritz offered to coordinate a membership drive to bring in members with new ideas to the Environmental Commission. He asked for suggestions on how best to attract interest and would like current members to contribute their thoughts at the next meeting,

Earth Day/Arbor Day

Vicky Binetti initiated discussion of plans for our Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration. Thus far, we have scheduled Allen Jackson from the New Jersey Bluebird Society and nature photographer Larry Lyons to give presentations at the Margaret E. Heggan Library. We will also prepare an exhibit for display in the Library. We anticipate having a rain barrel workshop, and Jim McCann will visit third-grade classes in all of our six elementary schools, provide instruction on trees and offer tree seedlings for the children to take home and plant. We expect to conduct stream/lake water sampling and macroinvertebrate sample collections with the fourth-grade talented and gifted students, as in the past; tree planting on public lands; and perhaps host a trail walk. Duffield's Farm Market is tentatively planning an event to commemorate Earth Day, and we hope to be part of that as well; Ann Culkin will

contact Duffield's to confirm specifics of their event. Members were asked to bring additional recommendations to our next meeting so that we can firm up plans for April.

New Business

Planning & Zoning Board

In Rich Fini's absence, there was no report. Leon Lakritz mentioned that the United Development Company is proposing to build two restaurants near the United Artists Theater (Tuckahoe Road and the Cross Keys Bypass), but no timetable has been established. Vicky Binetti also mentioned that the Rock of Refuge Full Gospel Assembly has submitted a use variance application to the Zoning Board to allow them to occupy a unit at the Fries Mill Plaza on Fries Mill Road; they are requesting a waiver of site plan. There is no environmental impact anticipated.

WTEC Annual Report

Our annual report to Mayor and Council is due in February. Vicky Binetti asked each member members responsible for any Environmental Commission activity in 2017 to e-mail her a report, and for all members to share any photographs they may have.

Committee Reports

Open Space

The Open Space Committee is currently evaluating the purchase of the Stoyko and Chew properties on Hurffville-Grenloch Road. Another resident has also indicated interest in discussing potential sale of additional property in the area.

The Community Garden will be up and running this year again. There are 18 plots with the possibility of an additional 6 plots depending on demand. The cost is \$10 prior to April 1st and \$20 thereafter. A new rototiller was purchased last year, and water is available on site. A permanent fence will be erected around the perimeter this spring to protect the garden from browsing deer.

Council Report

There was no report in Sean Longfellow's absence.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission

