

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**P. O. Box 1106 523 Egg Harbor Road
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(Approved at September 5, 2019 Meeting)

Minutes of August 1, 2019 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicky Binetti. Also attending tonight's meeting were Anne Hastings, Leon Lakritz, Ann Culkin and Jodi Smith. The minutes of our July 11, 2019 were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ann Culkin provided the following balances:

- WTEC Budget: \$2,516.51
- Earth Day: \$ 433.46
- Clean Up Day: \$3,370.56

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

There was no workshop meeting in July.

Sustainable Jersey

Vicky Binetti informed the Commission that 225 points were approved by Sustainable Jersey towards our application for a silver certification. She noted that there is still a lot of work to be completed. This includes a draft a resolution on Companion Animal Management, which is needed as a prerequisite to further actions on Animal Management (including a Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Release ordinance for cats).

Vicky reported that progress has been made in the Arts and Creative Culture area. The creative team has started a Facebook page, and info will be put on the Township website announcing a new event entitled "Chalk Challenge". Washington Township's Sustainable Jersey endeavors will be featured in *Business View Magazine* (date to be announced) and in *Municipalities*, the magazine of the NJ League of Municipalities, in October.

Clean Up Day

Ann Culkin reported that she met with Adele Riff to discuss potential clean up sites. Clean Up Day this year will be held on October 12 (rain date October 13). Ann spoke to the Rotary Club who has agreed to work with us, and she will also contact the Wedgewood Women's Club and Chamber of Commerce for their help and support. The T-shirt inventory will be completed shortly. Ann also emphasized that the site list needs to be completed so we will be able to determine the number of necessary police escorts. Nick Fiorentino, Public Works Supervisor for Washington Lake Park, will provide us with the number and age of volunteers he will require for assignments in the Park. Leon Lakritz contacted Michael Hogan of South Jersey Land & Water Trust about invasive species removal in the Park, which could be done on Clean Up Day under proper supervision. We have also decided to participate in the charitable book collection of gently-used children's books for grades K through 5. The collection point will be in Washington Lake Park.

Bluebird and Monarch Butterfly Projects

Vicky Binetti feels this has been a good year for the Bluebird population, and our efforts have succeeded. The milkweed plants, the main source of food for Monarch butterflies, have also done well, and a number of chrysalis have been seen.

Proposed Ordinance: Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Release (Feral Cats)

Anne Hastings had no new report.

ANJEC Grant

Work continues on the Poplar Trail signage project, for which the Commission has received a \$1,500 grant from ANJEC.

New Business

Planning & Zoning Boards

- Cedar Realty – Applicant is building two restaurants at the site of the old MBM building. Chipotle is expected to be one of the restaurants. One of the restaurants will have a drive-thru pickup lane for food ordered online. They will lose 22 parking spaces to accommodate. This

project is scheduled to go before the Zoning Board next week. A motion was made by Jodi Smith, seconded by Ann Culkin, to submit a letter to the Zoning Board setting forth our comments relative to the project. The Commission agreed that we would not object to a waiver of the environmental documents, since the construction will occur on land that has already been disturbed, and the proposed use is very similar to the existing use.

Rutgers Environmental Stewards Program

Leon Lakritz mentioned that Rutgers is looking for participants for their Environmental Stewards Program. The program begins on Friday, September 6th, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. It is a 20-week program that will end in January 2020. The deadline to submit an application is August 25th.

Committee Reports

Open Space

Leon Lakritz reported that the Open Space Committee edited the draft of the Community Forestry Plan and submitted it to Remington & Vernick, the company selected to assist in the development of the plan.

Council Report

There was no report in Sean Longfellow's absence.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

Announcements

Vicky Binetti reminded the Commission that the Humanities to Go presentation is scheduled for September 23 at the Margaret E. Heggan Library starting at 7:00 pm. The title of the presentation is "Cancer Alley or The Garden State". The presenter is Thomas Belton, Research Associate in Scientific Writing with the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission