

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**P. O. Box 1106    523 Egg Harbor Road  
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**(Approved at August 1, 2019 Meeting)**

**Minutes of July 11, 2019 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicky Binetti. Also attending tonight's meeting were Anne Hastings, Leon Lakritz, Ann Culkin, Peter Garbowski, and Chet Nawoyski. The minutes of our June 7, 2019 meeting were approved as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Ann Culkin reported a balance of \$2,816.51 in our budget.

**Old Business**

**Workshop Meeting**

There was no workshop meeting in June.

**Sustainable Washington Township**

Vicky Binetti reported that the documentation supporting our silver level certification application has been submitted, and the Green Team Advisory Committee (GTAC) is awaiting feedback from the Sustainable Jersey organization. If sufficient actions are approved, the Township will receive our silver certification by the end of this year. The GTAC is working on developing and promoting the

arts in the Township; specific activities are being led by the Creative Team. Vicky noted that several artistic and photographic displays, including the Earth Day painted rain barrels, were on view at Wine Festival in Washington Lake Park in June.

Vicky Binetti mentioned that she and Leon Lakritz attended the Sustainability Summit on June 14 in Holmdel. They got several good ideas on activities for Washington Township and learned about several new initiatives by the State. Vicky and Leon have also been attending meetings of the Tri County Sustainability Alliance. She noted that communities are re-educating residents on how and what to recycle as it has become apparent that recycling companies are charging penalties to municipalities for contaminated and prohibited materials included in recycling collections.

#### Clean Up Day

Clean Up Day is scheduled for October 12. Since the number of sites to clean up has diminished in recent years, the Environmental Commission is developing other activities for that day. One suggestion is to participate in a program called "Second Chance Toys" where we would collect gently used, clean plastic toys for redistribution to needy children. The collection point could be in Washington Lake Park on Clean Up Day. Leon Lakritz mentioned that there is an organization similar to Second Chance Toys who collect gently-used children's books, and he suggested we include the book program in addition to the toys. Leon also thought that clean up activities this year should be concentrated in the Park. A supervised invasive plant removal project was another suggestion offered by Anne Hastings.

Ann Culkin said she will contact the Township to see what other areas should be put on the site list for clean up, and she will also inventory the clean up day shirts we have on hand. Once the activities for Clean Up Day are finalized, Ann Culkin volunteered to work with the high school to solicit student participation.

#### Bluebird and Monarch Butterfly Projects

Vicky Binetti reported we had a good year with increasing the Bluebird population, and 30 fledglings were seen in the Bluebird boxes placed in open space parcels around town and in our parks.

Monarch butterflies were spotted in and around the Community Garden where milkweed, their primary food source, was planted.

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

Anne Hastings had no new report. Council has not yet introduced a revised ordinance related to the potential program.

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

Ann Culkin and Chet Nawoyski researched several ordinances and submitted them to Council for review. Vicky Binetti suggested we should narrow the choices down to a resolution modeled on the one endorsed by Food & Water Watch organization and proceed from there.

#### Annual Report

The 2018 Annual Report to the Mayor and Council was completed and submitted in June by Vicky Binetti.

### ANJEC Grant

The \$1,500 grant we receive from ANJEC will be used for signage on the Poplar Trail. Leon Lakritz is working with the high school graphic arts department to have the signs made for the Poplar Trail.

### Storage Capital Partners (storage facility), aka Greentree Self-Storage (Block 195, Lots 15 & 19.0I)

Vicky Binetti sent a letter to the Zoning Board last month with our comments relative to this project. The site is heavily wooded, and a large number of trees will be removed. Vicky Binetti reported that the Zoning Board will not require the applicant to update their tree plan even though it is more than ten years old. Applicant has agreed to install sidewalks on Shoppers Lane, and if for some reason they are unable, they have agreed to make compensation to the Tree Trust Fund. There are no plans for construction in the wetlands. Applicant has applied for all necessary permits.

### Humanities to Go

At our meeting in June, the Environmental Commission agreed to sponsor a Humanities to Go lecture (a program of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities) at the Margaret E. Heggan Library. Vicky Binetti reported that the arrangements have been made. The guest speaker will be Thomas Belton, Research Associate in Scientific Writing with the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. The event will take place on Monday, September 23, 2019, at the Margaret E. Heggan Library. The title of the presentation is "Cancer Alley or The Garden State."

### Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

Vicky Binetti asked members if they had updates they feel are necessary or any items that should be added to the Township Environmental Resource Inventory. There were no suggestions for changes to the ERI at this time.

## **New Business**

### Planning & Zoning Boards

There was no report.

### Open Space

The Open Space Committee has been diligently working on a Community Forestry Plan. They hope to submit a draft to Remington & Vernick, the company selected to assist in the development of the plan, for their input.

### Council Report

There was no report.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 o'clock.

Submitted by

*/s/Dorothy Hunter*

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary  
Washington Township Environmental Commission