

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**P. O. Box 1106 523 Egg Harbor Road
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(Approved at August 6, 2020 Meeting)

Minutes of July 2, 2020 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicky Binetti. Attending in person were Vicky Binetti, Ann Culkin, Leon Lakritz, and Jodi Smith; attending from remote locations via Zoom were Anne Hastings, Chet Nawoyski, and Peter Garbowski. The minutes of our March 5, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ann Culkin reported a balance of \$650 in our temporary budget account.

Old Business

Atlantic City Electric Substation (ACE)

The Atlantic City Electric Substation (ACE) project is on the Zoning Board agenda for the July 13, 2020 in-person meeting. After reviewing plans submitted by the applicant, the Environmental Commission sent a letter dated March 6, 2020 to the Zoning Board setting out our comments and recommendations. Vicky Binetti spoke about the proposed changes ACE has made in its plans to improve the overall appearance of the substation and to reduce the impact on neighboring residential properties. These include erecting a 12-ft. high concrete wall, enhanced with landscaping, at the boundary between the substation and the residents. Vicky noted that the wall will also reduce noise

from the substation, and will reduce exposure to the electrical field generated by the substation; the magnetic fields will not significantly change. The applicant has prepared a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, as required for a major site plan. We will recommend applicant proceed with a Phase II investigation because of concerns that PCBs, petroleum and fire-fighting chemicals could be present in the soil and/or ground water. The site was previously used for agriculture and was the location of a fire station. Chet Nawoyski inquired who would be responsible for maintenance of the landscaping (it will be ACE's responsibility) and whether there should be soil remediation (that will depend upon whether and what concentrations of chemicals are detected).

Clean Up Day

Clean Up Day is currently scheduled for October 10th. Vicky Binetti would like to make a decision at our August meeting as to whether the Environmental Commission will go ahead with plans for Clean Up Day in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Leon Lakritz suggested we consider activities that do not entail large crowds if we decide to proceed. It was suggested that we scale back the size of the event, and just target "hot spots" that are in dire need of clean up in the Township. Vicky would like to discuss some of these ideas at our next meeting. She also suggested we partner with the Margaret E. Heggan Library to hold a lecture or film series in lieu of our usual Clean Up Day program.

New Business

American Library Association Grants

Jeanne Wachter of the Margaret E. Heggan Library contacted Vicky Binetti to inquire if the Environmental Commission would be interested in partnering to apply for a \$1,000 grant to be used to promote education about climate change. There will be 20 grants awarded nationally by the American Library Association, and the applications are due August 28th.

Planning & Zoning Boards

It was announced that McDonald's on Route #42, adjacent to Kohl's, has submitted a minor site plan application for restaurant renovations. The Environmental Commission will not be making any comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission