

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
P. O. Box 1106 523 Egg Harbor Road
Turnersville, NJ 08012**

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(Approved at December 3, 2020 Meeting)

Minutes of November 5, 2020 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicky Binetti. Also attending in person were Leon Lakritz, Ann Culkin, and Jodi Smith. Members attending remotely were Chet Nawoyski, Anne Hastings, and Peter Garbowski, and guest Ryan Lee. The minutes of our October 1, 2020 meeting were approved as presented. Chet Nawoyski introduced Ryan Lee, Rowan University student majoring in environmental studies.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ann Culkin reported a balance of \$3,141.15 in our budget. Ann estimated we will have \$2,100 remaining in the account once outstanding expenses are paid and anticipated purchases are made. Vicky Binetti noted that members voted in October that those funds could be used towards the purchase of a weather station at the Margaret E. Heggan Library and/or the hydration station to fill water bottles in Washington Lake Park.

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

There was no workshop meeting in October.

Sustainable Jersey

Washington Township's application for a Silver certification in the Sustainable Jersey program was submitted in September, and Vicky Binetti is waiting to hear if we qualified. She feels confident, noting that we were approved for 360 points and only 350 points are required to attain the Silver level.

The Creative Team of the Green Team Advisory Committee (GTAC) has established a Kindness Rock Garden for children in Washington Lake Park; it is a small area near the Rangers Station and the playground. The Creative Team has also initiated a mural program. The first murals will debut at events to mark Small Business Saturday, November 28th. The murals will be mobile so they can be moved to displayed at different locations in the Township. The next meeting of the GTAC will be held on Monday, December 7th.

Proposed Ordinance - Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Release (TNV&R)

Anne Hastings is in the process of collecting data and statistics on cats taken to the Gloucester County Animal Shelter and their fate, to present to Council. She had no new report for this meeting.

ANJEC Grant – Poplar Trail

Work continues to implement the Poplar Trail educational project funded by a grant award from ANJEC. Nick Fiorentino and Park Rangers have thus far installed 12 markers on the Trail; the tags have QR codes that link to the Plants Map website. Mike Hogan, local environmentalist, and members of the Open Space Advisory Committee walked the trail and identified the locations where the markers should be placed.

Atlantic City Electric Substation (ACE)

Vicky Binetti presented an overview of this project, which is an expansion of an existing substation for Atlantic City Electric in proximity to a residential area. The Zoning Board met on September 14th and granted the use variance that was requested by ACE, with conditions, including a requirement that the substation design incorporate a façade that blends with other land uses in the vicinity. Vicky mentioned that this project is not on next week's Zoning Board agenda.

Climate Change

The Margaret E. Heggan Library received a \$500 grant from the American Library Association for a project on climate change; the Environmental Commission partnered with the Library on the application. Vicky Binetti previously suggested and members concurred that we support the library by assisting in the purchase of a weather station outside the library for the purpose of recording weather data. Chet Nawoyski mentioned that Rowan University has a large weather station near their tech building. He suggested we contact them to see if they have excess equipment in storage that we could use. Vicky Binetti has mentioned the project to the Washington Township Rotary to gauge their interest in participating in this project.

ANJEC Environmental Congress

ANJEC held its annual Environmental Congress virtually in October. Vicky Binetti attended two sessions and mentioned that she will forward a link to the recorded sessions. All members were registered to attend the Congress and are able to view the recorded presentations.

Clean Up Day

The annual Clean Up Day in Washington Township was cancelled in October due to the pandemic. Ann Culkin suggested that we consider holding the event in the spring of 2021 provided it is safe to do so.

Annual Report

The annual report is still a work in progress. Vicky Binetti will present the report to Mayor and Council once all the information and photos are assembled.

New Business

McGough Bus Company (Block 15.02, Lots 16 and 16.01)

Vicky Binetti reviewed this project, which is located on Route 42 adjacent to Lowes (previously occupied by Hitch-A-Rama). It is a large 20-acre site, covered by asphalt, gravel and grass. There are two buildings on the property – one houses offices and storage, and the other is an open span garage. The applicant proposes to re-surface significant portions of the lot. The applicant has provided a stormwater plan, an Environmental Impact Worksheet and a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. There are trees on the property, and 40 of them that are more than 10 inches in diameter will be removed. The applicant has requested that landscape trees be considered as part of the tree compensation. Vicky noted that there are above ground fuel tanks for waste oil and diesel fuel. The property is served by public water, and they do not have public sewer. The MUA has approved use of a septic system. It was agreed that Vicky will compose a letter reflecting our comments and request a containment plan for the fuel pad and storage tanks, a contingency plan for all other products, and to verify that the infiltration basin is properly sized.

Committee Reports

Open Space

The Open Space Committee is currently considering two properties on Glassboro Cross Keys Road to purchase as open space. A property located on Hurffville-Grenloch Road is also under consideration, and the Open Space Committee is awaiting a response from the seller. Leon Lakritz mentioned that the Community Forestry Management Plan was approved by the New Jersey Forestry Service.

Council

There was no report in Counsel Liaison, Sean Longfellow's absence.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

Announcements

Shred Day is on Saturday, November 7th in the parking lot next to the Municipal Building between 9:00 a.m. and noon. Residents are allowed up to four boxes. ID is required.

Vicky Binetti reminded the Commission that America Recycles Day is November 15. She also discussed the State's new plastics reduction bill for 2021. Styrofoam will also be banned except for certain small business use.

Leon Lakritz announced that the Community Garden is almost cleaned up for the winter months.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy E. Hunter

**Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission**