

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**P. O. Box 1106 523 Egg Harbor Road
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(Approved at October 1, 2020 Meeting)

Minutes of September 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicky Binetti. Also attending in person was Leon Lakritz; attending remotely were Chet Nawoyski, Ann Culkin, and Peter Garbowski.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ann Culkin had no report.

Old Business

Workshop Meeting

A workshop was not held in August. Vicky Binetti mentioned that the Environmental Commission may hold a workshop meeting on September 17 as there are a number of projects coming before the Planning and Zoning Boards in the near future.

Sustainable Jersey

The Gallery in the Park officially opened on August 23rd in Washington Lake Park, and Vicky Binetti thanked Chet Nawoyski for sharing his photos of the works displayed in the first exhibit. The contributing artists expressed their appreciation and satisfaction on the excellent presentation of their artwork.

Vicky noted that the deadline to complete items towards a silver certification is next week. Certifying that the produce grown in the Community Garden was donated to Mother's Cupboard will

take us over the finish line towards a silver certification in the Sustainable Jersey program, and she feels optimistic this will be done.

Bluebird Project

It is estimated that approximately 65 bluebirds were fledged in Washington Township this season as part of our project to increase their population. Vicky Binetti noted that about 40 were fledged in Washington Lake Park alone.

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

Anne Hastings continues to work on the TNV&R project whose goal is to help diminish the population of feral cats, allow willing residents to legally care for them, and reduce the rate of euthanasia at the County shelter. Anne is gathering statistics for Washington Township.

ANJEC Grant/Poplar Trail

Leon Lakritz reported that eight of the embossed plaques with QR codes have been installed by park rangers. These signs contain information on the plants and trees at different stations along the trail.

Recycling/Reusable Bag Campaign

This project is on hold because of the pandemic.

Atlantic City Electric (ACE) Substation Upgrade

This application was before the Zoning Board in July at which time Atlantic City Electric presented their experts and discussed the issues and concerns of nearby residents. A decision was made to bifurcate the project into two parts. The zoning variance will be heard first, and if that is approved, then the Zoning Board will proceed with the site plan. Vicky Binetti mentioned that the residents have retained an attorney, and he questioned the ACE experts at the August meeting along with the public comment portion. Vicky anticipates that the Zoning Board will reach a decision on the use variance at the September meeting.

Goals/Activities for 2020

Although some services have been resumed, the Margaret E. Heggan Library is still closed to the public for the foreseeable future. We will not be able to move forward with any of the activities planned for that location until restrictions on group gatherings are lifted.

Clean Up Day

The Environmental Commission agreed that we will not hold any events for Clean Up Day this year.

Stream Sampling

Until school programs are up and running again, the Environmental Commission will postpone stream sampling event until possibly next spring.

Committee Reports

Planning & Zoning Board

Vicky Binetti brought the Commission up to date on the following proposed projects:

Planning Board:

- **Lamberti's** – Applicant plans expansion of parking in the rear. There are also plans to expand the restaurant and establish a bar on the property, located on the Black Horse Pike. This project has been before the Planning Board. The Commission notes that the project is located in wellhead protection areas (Tier 2) for wells #10, 11, and 28.

Zoning Board:

- **Y & A Realty of NJ, LLC** – Applicant is seeking a use variance to allow commercial development. In addition to 80 residential units, they want to add a bank and a pharmacy. Vicky Binetti said that the site plan won't be heard until the variance is granted.
- **M & T** – This application is to construct a very large development on Blackwood-Barnsboro Road and Woodbury-Turnersville Road. There are plans to build 180 residential units with some commercial development. Approximately 15% will be affordable housing.
- **Dollar Store** – This proposed store would be located on Delsea Drive at Five Points, opposite McDonald's.
- **Birchwood** – The application proposes an 80-unit senior residential apartment complex. It will be located on the Black Horse Pike east of Carrabba's Italian restaurant.

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

Submitted by:

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission