



# TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of  
Tuesday, January 23, 2018

\* The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

#### **Statement of Compliance & Roll Call**

Members present: Jim Gambino, Vanessa Sandom, Bill Washburn, Rex Parker,

Mike Aucott (7:18), George Kerr, and Nora Sirbaugh,

Members absent: Ray Nichols, Tim Wilson

Also present: Michael Ruger - Twp Committee Liaison, Mark Kataryniak – Twp Administrative Officer

Members of the Public present: Harvey Lester, Mark Kennedy, Mike Pisauro

#### **Reorganization**

Nora was nominated for Chairperson by Rex, 2<sup>nd</sup> by George, and elected unanimously.

Ray was nominated for Vice-Chairperson by George, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim, and elected unanimously.

Jim was nominated for Secretary by Rex, 2<sup>nd</sup> by George, and elected unanimously.

Note: Michael Ruger will be the Twp Committee liaison to the EC.

#### **Minutes for Approval**

The December 19, 2017 draft minutes were approved as amended – Motion Rex, 2<sup>nd</sup> George, Abstain – Jim, Vanessa

**Actions:** Nora will forward these minutes to Mark for posting on the Twp website. Jim will forward the approved November 2017 minutes to Mark for posting on the Twp website.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Lester suggested that we regularly include a public comment period at the beginning and at the end of our meetings.

**2017 Accomplishments** - we reviewed last year's accomplishments listed below:

1. Organized memorial **Arbor Day Tree Planting**
2. Lead **Arbor Day Hike** - Woolsey Brook Trail - search for the largest Osage Orange tree
3. Completed **Ash Tree Inventory & Mapping** on haveyoursayhopewelltp website
4. Concluded **Solar Challenge** / Prize designation
5. Submitted **Carbon Fee & Dividend Resolution** to Twp. Comm.

6. Produced updated **Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) - 5yr Twp. renewal**
7. Completed **CFMP Core Training** by member Bill Washburn
8. Twp received **Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certification Award**
9. Submitted **Tree City USA** application
10. Continued **Water Monitoring Program** – funded Scotch Road Well & established partnership with SBMWA
11. Initiated **Twp Brush & Leaf Compost Special Meeting** - discussion & future plan

**2018 Goals** – we discussed potential goals listed below:

1. Chestnut Tree Planting
2. Detention Basin Naturalizing via Sustainable Jersey Grant (Feb 28 deadline)
3. Tree Planting, Reforestation & Resiliency via CSIP Grant (May 15 deadline)
4. Obtain Leaf Compost via Shared Services w/Hamilton Twp
5. Review quarterly Water Monitoring Reports from Scotch Road Well
6. Approve Native Plant List Ordinance
7. Public Education Outreach

**2018 Draft EC Budget** – we discussed this year’s proposed budget items and their estimated costs. The draft includes 5 major items:

1. Water monitoring \$3590 (due by Feb 1)
2. Chestnut Tree Project \$2000
3. Arbor Day tree & plaque \$1250
4. ANJEC dues & training \$1000
5. Office supplies & misc expenses \$400

**Actions:** Nora will forward the draft to EC members for final review. Nora will then forward the draft budget to Mark.

### **Stream Corridor Permit Review**

Mark & BJ **Kennedy**; 16 Pennington-Hopewell Rd; B 37, L 32  
Proposed fence installation in stream corridor buffer – residential lot

We reviewed and discussed the application together with Mark and Mr. Kennedy and voted to approve granting a waiver to permit Mr. Kennedy to construct the proposed dog fence on his lot within the stream corridor buffer.

Motion Rex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill; all in favor.

### **Zoning Board Application Reviews**

1. Case No 2018-01: **Disch & Sons Distillers, LLC**;  
130 Hopewell Rocky Hill Road; Block 14, Lot 15.01; VRC District  
Proposed Building Addition/Reconstruction  
Amended Use Variance

We reviewed and discussed the subject application together with Mark Kataryniak.

- \* We have no environmental concerns for the proposed project.

2. Case No 2018-02: **Ronald S. Garzio;**

311 Washington Crossing–Pennington Road; Block 92.02, Lot 11; R-100  
District  
Proposed Addition and Renovation  
Hardship/Bulk Variance

We reviewed and discussed the subject application together with Mark Kataryniak.

- \* We understand the allowable impervious lot coverage area for this property is 15% and the proposed project would increase the lot coverage to 15.5%.
- \* Exceeding the lot coverage area has detrimental effects to our local environment.
- \* If this application is granted approval, we recommend that specific stormwater mitigation solutions, such as runoff recharge areas/infrastructure, be included in the project to help compensate for and offset the additional 0.5% lot coverage.

**Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects**

**A. Tree City USA**

Mark has submitted our application, which needs additional documentation.

**Action:** the township must submit a retroactive Arbor Day Proclamation for our 2017 tree planting celebration.

**B. Brush/Compost**

There has been no action on this issue since our September 2017 special meeting.

**Actions:** Jim will contact Hamilton Twp to inquire about the availability of surplus leaf compost and the possibility of a shared services agreement with Hopewell Twp.

Bill will contact Ewing and Lawrence Twp's for the same.

**C. Chestnut Tree Planting Project**

We discussed details of this proposed project.

**Actions:** Mike and Rex will prepare a draft plan for us to review at our February meeting.

We will present our project proposal to the Twp Committee at their February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**New Business**

**A. HT Website – EC section review**

**Actions:** members are asked to review our mission statement.

We suggested having our 2016 & 2017 accomplishments posted upfront on the website.

**B. Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business**

Mark discussed standardizing Twp Boards, Committees and Commissions' agendas and minutes, and digitizing Robert's Rules for reference.

**Announcements / Correspondence**

1. Sustainable Jersey PSE&G Grant Opportunity (see pg 2, 2018 Goal #2).
2. The PennEast Pipeline was granted approval by FERC, but Mike Pisauro reminded us that the project still requires permits from NJDEP.
  - \* The meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm: Motion – Rex, 2<sup>nd</sup> George; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Gambino  
Secretary