



# TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Approved Minutes**  
For the regular meeting of  
Tuesday, January 19, 2021

**Note: this meeting was conducted and recorded using a Zoom videoconferencing application.**

\* The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Mark Kataryniak.

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

Members present: Nora Sirbaugh, Vanessa Sandom, Mark Bean, Paul Kinney, Mike Aucott, Rex Parker, Andrew Plunkett, and Jim Gambino

Members absent: George Kerr

Also present: Mark Kataryniak - Twp Administrative Officer

Courtney Peters-Manning – Twp Liaison

Members of the Public present: Joann Held

### **Reorganization**

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

Andrew was nominated for Vice-Chairperson by Vanessa, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike, and elected unanimously.

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

Note: Courtney Peters-Manning will be the Twp Committee liaison to the EC.

### **Minutes for Approval**

The December 15, 2020 draft minutes were approved as amended – Motion, Jim; 2<sup>nd</sup> Nora; Abstain – Mark B.; all in favor.

**Action:** Jim will forward these minutes to Jaimie Laird for posting on the Township website.

### **Review**

EC Ordinance - members received a copy of the ordinance establishing the Twp Environmental Commission, which Mark K. reviewed with us.

**Actions:** Mark suggested having the Twp Attorney meet with all BCC chairpersons to discuss issues and responsibilities.

Andrew will forward us a link to ANJEC's *Role of EC's*.

**2021 Goals** - members proposed the following goals:

1. **naturalize** additional **stormwater basins** located in the township (public or private)
2. draw **plans** for the native plant display garden area(s)

**Action:** Nora will doodle pool Andrew, Mark, and Paul to choose a date/time to meet.

3. reapply for grant money to fund the **Native Plant Display Garden Project**
4. notify property owners of the Twp **Woodlands Ordinance**

**Action:** a direct mailing may cost \$5,000. Ordinance information may be combined with the Twp's tax mailing in July.

5. maintain our Scotch Rd **Well water monitoring**
6. be available to review any **Zoning Board and Planning Board Applications**
7. create **outreach articles** (one each month) for publication on Twp web site, HV News, and MercerMe
8. review the Twp's proposed **Stormwater Ordinance**

### **2021 Budget**

Courtney will check with the Twp Committee to see if any funds may be available for EC budget items this year. Minimally, we would like to keep funding the ground water monitoring for the Scotch Road well. We would like additional funds for an Arbor Day Tree planting.

**Zoning Board Application Review** – none

### **Planning Board Application Review**

Hopewell Parc – North & South; 449 & 445 Scotch Road; Block 93, Lots 5.01, 5.02, 6.02  
Proprietary Inclusionary Housing Development with site improvements.

Mark K gave us an overview of the proposed project, which consists of 1077 housing units in two neighborhoods. Twenty percent of these units will be affordable housing.

**Action:** Mark asked us to review the project plans in more detail, and to focus on the stream buffer areas, for a further discussion at our next meeting.

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

#### **1. Twp Committee Liaison Report**

Courtney reported that:

They reorganized on Jan 4 with Julie Blake as our new mayor, and Courtney as deputy mayor. The Twp Administrator retired. George Snyder, Director of Public Works, is acting administrator. They are currently having budget meetings. Creative solutions are needed to make up for the loss of tax revenue from Bristol-Myers Squibb's leaving.

2. **Planning Board Liaison Report** - none
3. **Zoning Board Report** - none
4. **EC Members Outreach Articles**

Members agreed to write environmental outreach articles for 2021. Topics will be posted on the Twp web site's issue page. Topics may include: leaf mulching, septic system maintenance (Mike); dark sky, pesticide reduction & chemical fertilizers (Rex); trees (Jim); recycling, plastics (Paul); native plants, native gardens, turf lawns (Andrew); healthy food (Vanessa), responsible gardening (Nora). Lead in drinking water (Ray - already submitted), perhaps arsenic in drinking water (Mike & Twp Health Dept).

Rex said he would have his article ready for February. Andrew said he would have his article ready for March.

**Action:** Members should submit their article to Mark K. for posting.

### **New Business**

#### **1. HV Regional School District Green Team Earth Week**

Joann Held informed us that the school district recently formed a green team, which includes two members from the HV Green Team. They are proposing to celebrate a Green Week (5-7 days), centered around Earth Day (Th Apr 22), and hope to partner with other HV environmental groups to host an event and engage the community.

We discussed possibly hosting an Arbor Day tree planting, a tree seedling giveaway, a carbon/climate change talk, or plastic bag legislation talk.

### **Announcements & Correspondence**

1. Mercer County will hold a 2<sup>nd</sup> public meeting on Feb 23 at 6:00 pm for further discussion of visions for the Moores Station Quarry site.

**Action:** Mark suggested that a small group of Twp persons should attend.

2. Rex mentioned the Green Team's Styrofoam Collection being held at Tollgate Grammar School on Feb 6. He asked if it's possible to announce this on a variable message board placed at the Scotch Rd – Rt 546 intersection.

**Actions:** Mark will check with Public Works to see if the message board could be used.

Rex will forward an event flyer to Mark and Courtney to post on social media.

- \* The meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm: Motion – Paul, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rex; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Gambino  
Secretary