



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, March 15, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

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

Members absent: George Kerr

Also present: Jim Hutzelmann - Twp Engineer

Uma Purandare - Twp Committee Liaison

Members of the Public present: Kendra McKoy, Peter Fengler

Minutes for Approval

The February 15, 2022 draft minutes were approved – Motion, Rex; 2nd Vanessa; Abstain, Mark & Paul; all in favor.

Action: Jim G. will forward these minutes to Amanda Bregenzer for posting on the Township website

Zoning Board Application Review

Case No. 22-01: **Maciejewicz Rebuild**

Block 49, Lot 11; 74 Woosamonsa Road;

VRC Zoning District

Bulk variance for Lot Coverage and Setbacks

We reviewed and discussed the subject application together with Jim Hutzelmann.

We understand the rebuilt home will not increase the existing impervious footprint for this property, and therefore will not require stormwater management for this project. We also understand the project is within the stream corridor buffer area but is exempt from review.

We have no other environmental concerns for the proposed project.

Action: Jim G. will prepare and send our review comments via memo to Amanda Bregenzer to post with this application on the Township website.

Planning Board Application Review

Hopewell Campus Owner, LLC

Block 46, Lot 8.011; 311 Pennington-Rocky Hill Road;

RO-1 / Research Development w/Redevelopment A Overlay Zoning District

Preliminary & Final Major Subdivision

We reviewed and discussed the subject application together with Jim Hutzemann and have no environmental concerns for the proposed subdivision. However, we are very concerned that all easements, preservation and protections for other related parcels will be retained. It would be helpful to everyone to have a chart showing the link between developed parcels and parcels to be preserved in the redevelopment area.

We understand that the right to farm will continue with this approval, but ask the Board to consider the impact of this, and future projects at this site, on the local farming operations.

Action: Jim G. will prepare and send our review comments via memo to Linda Barbieri to post with this application on the Township website

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

1. **Twp Committee Liaison Report** – Uma reported the Committee continues to hold special budget meetings, and the Hopewell Parc PILOT Agreement was recently approved. Nora questioned when BCC's could resume in-person meetings. Uma said it is at our option to do so, and the Twp is researching what is needed to conduct hybrid Zoom meetings.
2. **Planning Board Liaison Report** – Rex updated us on the BeiGene Application review.
3. **Zoning Board Report** – none.
4. **Native Plant Demonstration Garden**

Andrew reported that he picked out 5-6 hardy, deer resistant plant species for the demo garden. He sent this information to Amanda Bregenzer to prepare a Twp Purchase Order. He is planning to work on creating signage with the Engineering & Robotics Dept. at the HV High School. Sod needs to be removed from the 10' x 8' planting area. He said Public Works can supply wood chips to mulch the planted area when complete.

Action: prepare planting area.

5. **Arboretum at Woolsey Park**

Jim G., Mike & Rex are planning to meet @ noon tomorrow to discuss next steps, and remove tree tubes from the chestnut trees.

Actions: schedule with Public Works to mow down brush in this area, and perhaps dump any excess leaf mulch the Twp is storing to prevent any new growth. We also plan to identify existing trees in the area once the trees leaf out in spring.

6. **Arbor Day - Salem Oak**

The new tree will honored at our 2022 Arbor Day celebration at 10:00 AM, Saturday, April 30. If Mike's white oak seedlings emerge, we may give some out to visitors. We also discussed the possibility of having refreshments.

7. **NJUCF Spring Core Training for Community Forestry Management Program**

Vanessa reported she is signed up for this year's core training class.

New Business

1. **Sustainable Jersey (SJ) - Recertification**

We agreed that we will not try to recertify the Twp this year, and that we should document all future projects as they progress to help with future recertification efforts.

Actions: Nora will forward the SJ Spreadsheet to members who are asked to review the SJ Actions Checklist to discuss at our next meeting.

3. ANJEC Stormwater Resolution

Members received an e-mail from ANJEC asking us to approve a resolution to halt developers from changing the rules so that municipalities can not exceed the NJDEP model regulations for the Residential Site Improvement Standards in their stormwater ordinances.

We are in favor of the resolution, but did not vote to approve it tonight.

Action: Uma will share the resolution with the Twp Committee and report back to us next month.

8. Wildlife Crossings and the Infrastructure Act

Mike informed of a discussion he had with the NJDEP concerning project funding. Paul said many possible local sites are on county roads.

Actions: Mike will arrange a Zoom meeting w/NJDEP to explain the grant application process and help apply for a grant. Paul will determine which sites are located on township roads.

6. Beigene Glass

Rex reported that during the Planning Board review of the BeiGene application, a member from the Audubon Society pointed out the danger for excessive bird deaths from having glass areas on the buildings. We discussed this issue and recalled prior recommendations we made on applications concerning this issue.

Action: Mark will contact ANJEC and the Audubon Society for advice and research on this issue.

Announcements & Correspondence

1. NJDEP – Community Right-to-Know Survey for 2021.

Public Comment

Following up on our discussion regarding hybrid Zoom meetings, Kendra McKoy said she could supply us with information on what equipment is needed. She also encouraged us to pass the ANJEC Stormwater Resolution.

Peter Fengler shared his strong interest in our community's trees. We discussed our Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) and possible tree inventories.

Actions: Uma will contact Jim H. to see if we need to update our CFMP

* The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm: Motion – Paul, 2nd Mark; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary