



# TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Approved Minutes**  
For the regular meeting of  
Tuesday, April 19, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

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

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

Members absent: Vanessa Sandom, George Kerr

Also present: Jim Hutzelmann - Twp Engineer

Uma Purandare - Twp Committee Liaison

Members of the Public present: Sophia Glover, Raul Torrence, Juanita Hummel,  
Susan Michniewski, Fairfax Hunter

### **Minutes for Approval**

The March 15, 2022 draft minutes were approved – Motion, Jim; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark; all in favor.

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

### **Planning Board Application Review**

#### **Francis/Topley Minor Subdivision & Consolidation**

Block 129, Lot 124 & Block 133, Lot 45; Butterfoss Avenue;  
R-75 & VRC Zoning Districts

We reviewed and discussed the subject application together with Jim Hutzelmann and Uma Purandare and have no environmental concerns for the proposed subdivision and consolidation.

**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 operational budget was introduced, the Committee reviewed the ANJEC Stormwater Resolution and will pass it soon, they are selecting a retail cannabis site, Clean Communities day was held April 9, Bulk waste pickup continues through April, and refreshments for Arbor Day could be provided through the EC's budget or from local sponsors.
2. **Planning Board Liaison Report** – none
3. **Zoning Board Report** – none.

#### 4. **Native Plant Demonstration Garden**

Andrew reported that plastic was placed over the planting area to “Solarize” and kill the sod and weed seeds through heat. He e-mailed us photos of the work.

**Action:** monitor solarization efforts in planting area.

#### 5. **Arboretum at Woolsey Park**

Mike contacted Bill Flemer of D&R Greenway who will supply us with a few Hophornbeam saplings to plant in our arboretum.

**Actions:** schedule with Public Works to mow down brush in the arboretum area, and perhaps dump any excess leaf mulch the Twp is storing to prevent any new vegetation 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 be honored at our 2022 Arbor Day celebration at 10:00 AM, Saturday, April 30. We discussed the possibility of having refreshments.

#### 7. **Wildlife Crossings and the Infrastructure Act**

Jim and Mike reviewed Paul’s map but were not yet able to visit any of the sites. We plan to visit sites on our most heavily trafficked roads first. Fairfax mentioned a site on Pleasant Valley Road, and Juanita mentioned a site on Hopewell-Wertzville Road. We also plan to talk with the Sourland Conservancy and Mercer County to identify new sites in known problem areas. We also discussed adding crossing signage in these problem areas.

**Actions:** Paul will add GPS coordinates to the map.

Visit and evaluate known sites.

Contact the Sourland Conservancy and Mercer County to identify new sites in known problem areas.

### **New Business**

#### 1. **Bird Collisions w/glass**

Juanita Hummel, of the Washington Crossing Audubon Society, reviewed with us an attachment we received from the American Bird Conservancy, which discussed various methods of reducing the estimated 1 billion US bird deaths annually from bird-glass collisions.

**Actions:** approach BeiGene to retrofit their recently approved glass building.

Juanita will provide a statement from the Washington Crossing Audubon Society on the prevention of bird/glass collisions

Members are asked to review a model ordinance which Rex will forward to us.

#### 2. **Stream Corridor Permit Review**

Raul Torrence; B72, L61; 400 Oak Street.

We viewed photos and heard testimony from Mr. Torrence, who was recently asked by the Township to stop work repairing the in-ground pool in his back yard until he provides evidence that he has obtained a NJDEP permit to conduct work in a flood hazard area.

Although this work is within our regulated stream buffer area, the work is permitted as per our ordinance section 12-3.2, c 2-3 for reconstruction or maintenance of a valid nonconforming structure that existed prior to adoption of our ordinance “*provided the reconstruction does not have a greater footprint or total area than that of the damaged structure and no change in land use occurs*”.

We recommended that Mr. Torrence, minimize compaction of the area, completely restore the work area and add woody vegetation.

**Action:** Andrew will forward a preferred list of plants to Jim H. to send to Mr. Torrence.

### 3. **NJDEP Compliance Advisory**

The advisory is to secure lids on septic systems. No EC action required. This information should go to the Twp Health Dept.

### 4. **TC Resolution to Renew Sustainable Jersey & Recertify for Tree City USA**

The Township Committee recently passed a resolution to renew Sustainable Jersey for 2023 and recertify for Tree City USA for 2022.

### 5. **Treatment Works Approval Application – Subsurface Sewage Disposal System B57, L1**

The application is for the Golden Nugget Flea Market property. No EC action required.

### 6. **ANJEC Stormwater Resolution**

**Action:** we should hear back from the Twp Committee next month regarding this issue.

### **Announcements & Correspondence**

1. NJDEP – Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Strategic Funding Plan – Contact survey. Paul & Mike volunteered to be our RGGI contact persons.

**Action:** Jim H. will forward info to Paul & Mike.

### **Public Comment**

Susan Michniewski discussed signage needed for amphibian crossings.

**Action:** Sue will supply a sign template to Jim H. for Public Works.

\* The meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm: Motion – Rex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Gambino  
Secretary