



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes
For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, May 17, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Paul Kinney.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

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

Members absent: Nora Sirbaugh, Mike Aucott, George Kerr

Also present: Jim Hutzelmann - Twp Engineer

Uma Purandare - Twp Committee Liaison

Members of the Public present: Lisa Ferraro, Jim McGinley

Minutes for Approval

The April 19, 2022 draft minutes were approved as amended – Motion, Jim; 2nd Mark; abstain, Vanessa; all in favor.

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

Stream Corridor Permit Reviews

1. Stream Corridor Permit Application – Jacobs Creek
Sunoco Pipeline; Block 99.01, Lots 6, 9, 10;
1200 River Road, 6 Creek Rim Drive, 8 Creek Rim Drive; R-100 Zoning District

We reviewed and discussed this application together with Jim Hutzelmann and Sunoco Consultant, Jim McGinley. We agreed to approve granting a waiver to permit this project together with the Engineer's recommended conditions that the failing pipeline should be abandoned and replaced as described, and the applicant should avoid tree removal shown in the Stream Corridor or replace the trees after construction

2. Stream Corridor Permit Application – Stony Brook Tributary
Ferraro/Gardella Addition; Block 7, Lot 18;
257 Pennington-Hopewell Road; R-100 Zoning District

We reviewed and discussed this application together with Jim Hutzelmann, and agreed to approve granting a waiver to permit this project with no conditions.

3. Stream Corridor Permit Application – Delaware River Tributary

Andrew & Kristen Bean; Block 60, Lot 19;
2 Fiddler's Creek Road; MRC R-250 Zoning District; Fence

We reviewed and discussed this application together with Jim Hutzelmann, and agreed to approve granting a waiver to permit this project together with the Engineer's recommended conditions to have a fence with pickets or openings to allow for water flow through.

Action: Jim G. will prepare and send our review comments via memo to Jim Hutzelmann to file with these applications.

Zoning Board Application Reviews

Case No. 22-03: **Rossi Generator**

Block 46.06, Lot 4; 207 Penn View Drive;
R-100 Zoning District
Bulk Variance for Side yard Setback

We reviewed and discussed this application together with Jim Hutzelmann and Uma Purandare and have no environmental concerns for the proposed project.

Case No. 21-15: **Ferraro/Gardella Addition**

Block 7, Lot 18; 257 Pennington-Hopewell Road;
R-100 Zoning District
Bulk variance for Side yard Setback; plus Stream Corridor Permit

We reviewed and discussed this application together with Jim Hutzelmann and Uma Purandare. We understand the project is within a stream corridor buffer area, and that the applicant is proposing to remove a portion of impervious pavement as part of this project, which will benefit the buffer area. 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 these applications on the Township website.

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

1. **Twp Committee Liaison Report** – Uma reported the 2022 budget was adopted, they have selected a new Police Chief, approved one retail cannabis site and are considering a second applicant.
2. **Planning Board Liaison Report** – none
3. **Zoning Board Report** – none.
4. **Native Plant Demonstration Garden**

Andrew reported we are waiting for the vegetation to die through solarization in the planting area. He will notify us when the new plants arrive.

Action: monitor solarization efforts in planting area.

5. **Arboretum at Woolsey Park**

Jim reported that he and Rex planted four hophornbeam trees in the arboretum area.

Actions: Plan for future plantings,

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.

Identify existing trees in the area.

6. **Arbor Day - Salem Oak**

Ten people attended our 2022 Arbor Day celebration on April 30 to honor our baby Salem oak tree. We also visited the newly planted hophornbeams and chestnut row. We discussed creating a historical sign for the Salem oak.

Action: Andrew will research signs for cost.

7. **Bird Collisions w/glass**

Members are asked to review a model ordinance which Rex recently sent to us.

Actions: check with Juanita Hummel, of the Washington Crossing Audubon Society, to see if she provided a statement on the prevention of bird/glass collisions to Nora last month.

8. **Wildlife Crossings and the Infrastructure Act**

Paul reported that FoHVOS wants to partner with the Twp on this work and provide signage or advice. They have a donor who will help fund any projects.

Actions: Visit and evaluate known sites.

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

New Business

1. **In-person EC Meetings**

We discussed whether to hold our June meeting in-person.

Action: We will solicit guidance from the Twp Health Officer prior to our meeting.

2. **No-mow May**

Mark suggested that areas along roadways where native wildflowers are growing should not get mowed by the Twp.

Actions: Areas could be marked to avoid mowing. Vanessa suggested that Mark should discuss this issue at a future Twp Committee meeting.

3. **ANJEC Stormwater Resolution**

There was no response from the Twp Committee regarding this issue.

Announcements & Correspondence

B40 L14.03 NJDEP Flood Hazard Area Permit for Princeton Farmhouse LLC,

B15 L14.02 Treatment Works Approval notice for Stony Brook Regional Sewage Authority

B37 L27 NJDEP Clarification notice for Watershed Institute dam removal project

* The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm: Motion – Rex, 2nd Vanessa; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary