



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, June 15, 2021

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

* The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Mark Bean, Vanessa Sandom, Mike Aucott, Jim Gambino, Nora Sirbaugh and Paul Kinney (7:47 pm)

Members absent: Andrew Plunkett, Rex Parker, George Kerr,

Also present: Herb Seeburger - Twp Engineer

Courtney Peters-Manning – Twp Committee Liaison

Members of the Public present: Brad Caswell, Joe Kleber

Minutes for Approval

The May 18, 2021 draft minutes were approved – Motion, Jim; 2nd Mark B.; Abstain, Mike; all in favor.

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

Stream Corridor Application Reviews

1. **John B. & Frances Caswell;** Block 62, Lot 26.02; 326 Pennington-Harbourton Road; VRC Zone; Proposed fence within 150-ft buffer area of Jacob's Creek tributary

Note: this item was added to the agenda, and is our third meeting with the applicant.

Members voted to approve granting a waiver to permit Mr. & Mrs. Caswell to construct their new fence with the following conditions: that the fence may be installed no closer than 50 feet from the rear property line, and the applicant shall be required to plant twenty native woody plants, trees or shrubs, within the stream buffer area along the rear of the property on ten foot centers. All plants should be chosen from the Township's approved plant list in Section 17-89 of the Landscape Ordinance. We suggested planting black willow, river birch or sycamore trees. The remaining buffer area outside of the fence shall not be mowed.

2. **Joseph Kleber:** Block 48, Lot 25; 21 Timberlane Drive; R-100 Zone
Proposed wood deck within 150-ft buffer area of Baldwin's Creek

We understand the entire dwelling is located within the Township's 150-ft stream corridor buffer and is in an area with minimal flood hazard. We voted to approve granting a waiver to permit Mr. Kleber to construct the proposed wood deck on his lot provided the area under the deck remains pervious.

Action: Jim will prepare and send our review comments via memo to Jaimie Laird & Linda Barbieri to post with these applications on the Township website.

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

1. **Twp Committee Liaison Report** - [Courtney reported](#) the Committee passed a resolution adopting the Carbon Fee & Dividend Resolution proposed by us. A copy of the resolution will be sent to Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman. Mike attended the June 14 meeting to explain the resolution.

The Committee has also directed the Planning Board to reexamine the Twp's Master Plan, including the water element, plus conduct a water study.

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 EC 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), stormwater basin naturalization (Mark B).

We decided the submittal protocol would be to send your article to members for review. Replies shall only go back to the author (i.e. do not reply all). We will discuss the article at our next meeting. Upon approval, the article will be sent to Reba Holley, the Township's Communications and Outreach Manager, for posting on the Twp website and social media.

Actions: Nora will produce the next article for our review.

New Business

1. Twp Groundwater & Wells

There is continuing public concern by some residents about the effects on groundwater that may occur if the Hopewell Parc and The Collection projects are constructed. These concerns have not been addressed by the Planning Board. As noted above, the Planning Board has been instructed to conduct a groundwater study during the Master Plan review.

Jim suggested the public should refer to the Environmental Impact Statement Reports for these projects on the Twp web site.

Vanessa suggested adding a monitoring well. But where would it be located? And how much would it cost?

It was also suggested to begin collecting data from the Twp's low-flow weirs.

Action: Mike will contact the Watershed Institute about the weirs.

2. Spotted Lantern Fly Update

Nora informed us of the current status of the Spotted Lantern Fly. The egg masses have hatched. They are in one of the instar stages and appear as a small black bug with white spots. They are very hard to catch.

Action: it is recommended to kill the instars with insecticidal soap.

Announcements & Correspondence

1. Sophie Glover, of the Watershed Institute, would like to speak at our next meeting about an impervious surface reduction plan.

Action: Nora will obtain the plan from Sophie and forward it to members to review before our next meeting.

- * The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm: Motion – Vanessa, 2nd Mike; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary