



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Note: this meeting was held in person in the Municipal Building Courtroom and was recorded.

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

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

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

Members absent: Vanessa Sandom, George Kerr

Also present: Jim Hutzelmann - Twp Engineer

Uma Purandare - Twp Committee Liaison

Dawn Marling - Twp Health Officer

Members of the Public present: Jim and Sandy Perkins, Kevin Anderson,

Minutes for Approval

The May 17, 2022 draft minutes were approved as amended – Motion, Paul; 2nd Rex; abstain, Mike and Nora; all in favor.

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

Zoning Board Application Reviews

Case No. 22-04: **Anderson Addition**

Block 40, Lot 32; 5072 Province Line Road;

MRC Zoning District

Bulk variance for Front and Side yard Setbacks

We reviewed and discussed this application together with Jim Hutzelmann and Uma Purandare.

Mr. Anderson informed us that no trees will be removed to complete this work, and we have no other environmental concerns for the proposed project.

Case No. 22-05: **Wesner Home**

Block 130, Lot 87-92; 16 Butterfoss Avenue;

R-75 Zoning District

Bulk variance for Front Yard Setback

We reviewed and discussed this application together with Jim Hutzelmann and Uma Purandare.

The proposed quantity and size of the trees being removed for this project requires replacement trees as per our ordinance. We note the replacement trees for the 19" oak tree which is being removed should be two trees having 3" caliper. The plans show two replacement trees having 2½" caliper. Other items in the replacement chart are correct.

We understand this project is considered a minor development which requires stormwater management as per our ordinance. Since the property is located within the jurisdiction of the Delaware River Canal Commission, we understand the DRCC will enforce the stormwater management requirements for this project.

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.

Planning Board Application Review

Conservation Development LLC; Minor Subdivision

Block 2, Lot 1.01; 215 Hopewell-Wertsville Road;

MRC Zoning District

Amended (Bulk Variance Relief from Condition of Original Approval)

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

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 new Police Chief was recently sworn in, and they have approved three retail cannabis applicants/sites.
2. **Health Officer Report** – Dawn provided handouts for an upcoming Men's Health Workshop being held June 29 at the Municipal Building. She said the free radon test kits from NJDEP were all given out to residents, but only about one third were mailed back for lab analysis. The township is trying to get grants for well water testing kits for coliform bacteria following recent flooding events. NJDEP plans to have a community presentation regarding PFAS chemicals in drinking water.

Information Mike asked about community outreach concerning arsenic in drinking water. regarding this topic can be found on the Twp website.

3. **Planning Board Liaison Report** – Rex reported that the affordable housing projects, Hopewell Parc and The Collection, are well underway.
4. **Zoning Board Report** – none.
5. **Native Plant Demonstration Garden**

Andrew reported that the vegetation has died through solarization in the planting area. He plans to amend the soil prior to planting. He will notify us when the new plants arrive.

We also discussed the possibility of having small “native plant” garden signs made by Public Works for members of the public who create native plant areas in their yard. The signs would contain a QR code to link to information on the Twp website, which we will create.

Actions: members should be ready to help with planting efforts.

Mike and Mark will draft an article about converting lawns to native plant gardens.

6. **Salem Oak Signage**

We discussed creating a historical sign for the Salem oak.

Actions: Andrew will research signs for basic layout and cost.

Jim will forward related Salem oak info and the new Brearley Oak sign to Andrew.

7. **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. He suggested that pavement markings or flashing signs may be more noticeable to drivers than plain road signs.

Actions: Paul will send a Doodle Poll for us to choose a time/date to visit and evaluate known sites.

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

8. **RGGI Strategic Funding**

Action: Mike will send us the link to the NJ RGGI website so we can learn more.

9. **In-person EC Meetings**

We discussed whether to hold future meetings in-person.

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

10. **No-mow May**

Mark suggested that areas along roadways where native wildflowers are growing should not get mowed by the Twp. We need to identify and map these areas and provide this information to Public Works.

Actions: Areas could be marked to avoid mowing.

Uma will check with Public Works about their mowing schedule and our request.

Announcements & Correspondence

B15 L14.02; 92 Aunt Molly Road; Stony Brook Regional Sewage Authority; application for Freshwater Wetlands General Permit 2

B72 L 11 & 31; Pennington-Lawrenceville Rd; application for Freshwater Wetlands General Permit 7 & 11

B69 L10, 13, 14, & 18; 222 Route 31; Proposed Buy-Rite Development; NJDEP Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit.

- * The meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm: Motion – Mike, 2nd Rex; all in favor.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary