

Pennington Borough Environmental Commission
DRAFT Minutes for February 22, 2021 7:30 pm
Zoom Virtual

Attending: Bill Alexander, Nick Angarone, Kit Chandler, Brian Friedlich, Eileen Heinzl, Joann Held, Chloe Hulsizer Karl Muessig, Gregg Rackin, Nadine Stern,

Absent: Peter Betaneli, Hailey Grillo,

1. Public comment: No public Comment

2. Review of past minutes

January 2021 minutes reviewed, no edits. Motion to approve by Nick, second by Bill.

3. Discussion of Need for a Baseline Assessment/General Discussion:

Brian raised the issue of creating a “baseline” assessment as to where the Environmental Commission stands currently in relation to its stated goals (similar to Joann Held’s). Nadine commented on the Carbon Neutral Goals. Hurricane Sandy language should remain. Brian will send the Environmental Commission’s vision to the Mayor prior to the next Council Meeting.

4. Administrative Issues

a) ERI Update:

The Commission noted that the ERI document is large document and that more time will be needed to complete it. Nick noted that ERI is adopted as part of the Borough Masterplan every 5-10 years.

b) Study of the Pond at the Pennington School- Eileen contacted the school but there has been no response to date. There was mention of the National Heritage Database and that information is needed from that database.

c) Joann raised the question: “Will the Borough receive points for Sustainable New Jersey for completing the ERI?”

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5. Borough Council Report-Kit Chandler

a) Approved Open Space for property behind Tollgate House for \$145,000 but the development rights require another \$100,000. The Green Acres Report is required for closing.

- b) At the Health Commission Quarterly Meeting, a request was made for more frequent communication with the Environmental Commission. A request was made for volunteers to come forward.
- c) Landfill Property-we are waiting for the State to respond. There is a September deadline. Test wells must be dug.
- d) Deer Management: The program is now completed for this period. Final count was 20 for the first year.

6. Planning/Zoning Board Report

- a) The Board met and reviewed an application for the lot on the corner of Baldwin & Maple Ave.'s. There was a request to hold this application regarding a question of maximum space that could be utilized on the side yard. There was a concern of the corner lot and potential runoff impact and there was a question on the need for additional impervious land surface.
- b) Eileen noted that the March meeting of the Planning Board would address an application for 107 King George Road where the new owner will request permission to build a new home. Environmental Commission is required by March 1st.
- c) Bill reported the Open Space Committee met January 20th and discussed the Tollgate project. The Committee will meet again in May and October.

7. Green Team and Sustainable Jersey Update

- a) Styrofoam collection was fantastic!
- b) Discussions are on-going with Hopewell Township regarding the use of an available storage bay for enhanced collection of Styrofoam.
- c) The Pennington Farmers Market will open May 29th and discussions are underway with the Health Department for appropriate compliance.
- d) Green Week Plan- 3 packets or "Green Living Kits" are being developed for each municipality. Due to COVID restrictions there will be socially distanced events on Woolsey Park (Hopewell Twp.), Kunckle Park (Pennington Borough) and the recreational Gazebo in Hopewell Borough.
- e) Green Week will take place April 18-24, 2021. Hopewell Valley Schools are coordinated and Chloe will contact the teacher advisor by March 9th concerning our event. There was discussion regarding the Borough's event at Kunckle Park. A virtual tree planning that the park or school was discussed as well as the potential of a tree planting at the Arboretum being purchased. Joan noted posters used in the past can be "recycled" for this event.

8. On-going Mission Topics

- a) Green Development: Should we consider a Green Resolution?
- b) The Shade Tree Committee will be conducting its annual planting on Arbor Day. There is a need for greater coordination with Parks & Recreation. Morris Fabian was mentioned as the Borough's tree expert. There was discussion of tree planting being video streamed. Eileen noted that administrative work will need to be undertaken for a virtual event. It was decided that the next step is for a date to be determined so that a Virtual Event could be planned and include the entire Environmental Commission's agenda be included through various vignettes including: Arboretum, Carbon Neutrality, ERI, Recycling (more information/how-to), Morris Fabian demonstration of how to plant a tree. Chloe will explore a student volunteer videographer.
- c) The Green Development checklist was tabled for this meeting

9. New Business

Gregg and Brian will meet to take pictures of the retention basin at Heritage at Pennington as they move forward regarding a potential partnership with the county and Watershed Institute in creating a pollinator garden.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47 pm

Next Meeting March 15, 2021