

Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Minutes – 11/20/2017

Members in attendance: Ed Alter, Bob Cinek, Meredith Kates, Scott Raymond, Elizabeth Snieckus, Adam Tate

Members absent: Sachiko Goodyear, Jack Stubbs, Tom Wiseman

Guests: Liaison Frank Pizzella

Meeting open: 7:00 pm

I. General Business:

- a. **Adopted minutes from 10/16/2017 meeting** - No further action required.
- b. **Correspondence, email** – No new email. Bob Cinek to pick up new site plans for review.
- c. **Membership update** – Chair Meredith Kates spoke with Mayor Ruocco, requesting the Borough website post a request for residents interested in serving on the Environmental Commission, to send resume information to Borough's attention. The Mayor has received several resumes for the E.C. to review for consideration. The E.C. discussed the candidates, the status of current Commission members, and how they might change, in the coming year. E.C. members and Liaison Pizzella discussed the role and responsibilities of the E.C. Liaison to the Borough Council. New mayoral appointments have not been made yet, and E.C. members emphasized the need for consistent meeting attendance, and clear channels of communication relaying E.C. comments and concerns, to the Council.

II. Recent Business – Follow Up:

- a. **Emerald Ash Borer** - Liaison Frank Pizzella updated the EC. The Hillsdale Borough Council has decided to take the E.C. recommendation to hire a professional to identify high risk areas with EAB damage within Hillsdale. Mayor Ruocco will be instructing the Borough Administrator, Jon DeJoseph, to move forward.
- b. **Tree Bank Status** – Vice Chair Scott Raymond, has asked for the Borough Administrator for monthly updates on Tree Bank funds activity and budget. No information has been received by the E.C. as of yet. Monthly budget updates have stopped coming. The E.C. would like to clarify if Administrator DeJoseph feels we have no say in these matters. Borough Engineer, Chris Statile wants tree bank funds to only be used for planting trees, and not for other tree related needs; such as maintenance.
- c. **2018 Budget** – Mayor will be starting budget discussions for the upcoming year. The Environmental Commission plans to request the same budget amount as 2017.
- d. **Scouts/Beechwood Trail** – Eagle Scout Matt Advensky, has finished his project. Bat houses are in, benches are in, and all look great.

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- e. **SUEZ Walkway** – Member Ed Alter spoke with Woodcliff Lake Councilwoman for an update. Woodcliff Lake met with SUEZ representatives to discuss battery operated, motion activated, still photo security camera. The loved it, and took the idea back to their people to discuss. Hillsdale E.C. Liaison Pizzella would like to talk to SUEZ representatives, and meet again to tell them Hillsdale is ready to go on our part, and get it done. Woodcliff Lake has other issues that need to be dealt with still.
- f. **Be the Church volunteer clean up** – The Borough Council has not yet officially recognized Church's volunteers for their clean up work at Beechwood Park. Vice Chair Scott Raymond recommends that commendations be presented at the Pascack Bible Church. Liaison Pizzella is to address the issue, and inform the EC.

III. New Business:

- a. **Rec. Dept./EC collaborative committee** – The Recreation Commissioner is reevaluating its role, and would like to be more involved with the Environmental Commission and Parks and recreation, to have a larger role in Hillsdale Town Day, maintenance, and passive recreation to serve all residents better. Meredith Kates requests that EC members interested in being involved in a joint recreation subcommittee, to please contact the Recreation Department.
- b. **Training Sessions for EC/Planning Board Referrals** – To have additional EC members available to review Planning Board Site Plan Application reviews, Chair Kates suggests that current Site Plan Review subcommittee members hold informal training meetings with those interested in learning. EC member Snieckus will follow up with member Cinek, to review the process on new applications. Member Adam Tate expressed interest in participating in Site Plan review as well.
- c. **Schools/Website** – Nothing to report at this time.

IV. Planning/Zoning:

- a. **Haglid Engineering, 80 Broadway** – Planning Board has requested E.C. site plan review for this application, regarding conducting activity on site which is not a permitted use.
- b. **Minor Subdivision, Wierimus Lane** – E.C. to review a Minor Subdivision application.
- c. **Aeon Gymnastics** – A new traffic study will be forthcoming on the proposed site plan.
- d. **31 Morris Ave.** – Condition of approval, requires that the applicant have the E.C. advise them on landscaping. Borough Engineer Chris Statile, will be setting up a meeting between applicant and E.C. members. Chair Kates will be advising members on when meeting is scheduled.

Meeting adjourned: 8:42 pm

Next meeting: December 18, 7:00 pm