HADDON TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Minutes

Regular Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, June 21st, 2017, 7:00 pm**

Haddon Township Environmental and Historical Education Center

143 E. Ormond Avenue

Haddon Township, NJ 08107

The prior meeting of the Environmental Commission scheduled for May 17th, 2017 was cancelled.

Quorum was declared at 7:11 pm.

**FLAG SALUTE**

* Commission Chair Maggi Liebe requested that all who choose to stand for the flag salute.

**CONFIRMATION OF SUNSHINE LAW**

* M. Liebe announced that Chapter 231, Public Law 1975 requires adequate notice of this meeting be provided specifying time, place and agenda. This was done by placing the meeting date and time on the Township calendar with notice of the meeting mailed to the Courier-Post and Retrospect newspapers, and by posting the agenda on two bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and on the Haddon Township website (http://www.haddontwp.com).

**ROLL CALL**

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| --- | --- |
| Nick Boonin | Present |
| Maggi Downham | Present |
| Marlene Finizio | Present |
| Maggi Liebe | Present |
| Erin MacMinn | Absent (excused) |
| Christopher Martin | Present |
| Patrick Mulroy | Absent (excused) |
| Christopher Squazzo | Present |

Also Present:

Lorraine Prince – Newton Creek Watershed Association

Fred Stine – Delaware Riverkeeper Network

**CALL TO ORDER – 7:14pm**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 2017**

* Motion to approve – M. Downham
  + Seconded – N. Boonin, with unanimous consent

**ANNOUNCEMENTS - OLD/NEW BUSINESS – ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

* **Discussion of Newton Creek Concerns –** At 7:30, C. Squazzo initiated discussion of specific areas of concern that are targeted for improvement along the banks of Newton Creek, with Lorraine Prince of Newton Creek Watershed Association and Fred Stine of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. C. Squazzo presented comparative aerial imagery of Newton Creek from each of 2012 and 2015.
  + **Lake 3 –** C. Squazzo stated that riparian zones were inspected roughly 10 years prior by an assemblage of Camden County personnel that was intent on walking the lake and establishing cut/no-cut zones, but that County interest had subsided in the interim. Violations of note included:
    - cutting and replanting of maples adjacent to the former Burger King site along rt. 30 in Oaklyn (across from CVS)
    - planting of riparian buffers and subsequent mowing along Newton Lake Dr at rt. 30 (behind The Heights of Collingswood Apartments)
    - unpermitted installation of impervious surface for the parking lot of a boat launch at the corner of rt. 30 and Newton Lake Dr (behind The Heights of Collingswood Apartments)
      * parking lot typically filled by tenants of apartment
    - 12,000 ft2 of riparian buffers were installed adjacent to a concrete swale behind housing units at The Village of Newton Lake complex on Beechwood Ave in Oaklyn; zone was then trimmed to maintain optimal view of Collingswood fireworks
      * Newton Creek Watershed Association reported violation to DEP, to no avail
    - ALL LAKE 3 VIOLATIONS ON COUNTY LAND
    - Moving trails off edge of stream would alleviate majority of issues
    - Better instruct mower supervisors - hire fewer “greenblind” workers –responsible party?
  + **Lake 1** - entire strip cantilevered – everything mowed down adjacent to Cuthbert Rd
    - mowers progress toward lake into riparian zones over time
      * prior “no-mow” signs have been knocked/mowed over
    - suggest installation of walkovers in path areas that are overrun by sediment e.g. mudflow adjacent to Lees Lane crossover
    - C. Squazzo – fixing outfall at Cuthbert Rd may definitely help, but expenses need to be prioritized
    - F. Stine – Saddlers Woods sediment flows were #1 contributor of sediment to Lake 1 per CCMUA analysis
  + **Lake 2** – backside riparian zones “aren’t too shabby” (M. Finizio) – despite stone buffers
  + raising Newton Creek shoreline canopy to 10-12 ft allowing lake visibility but with buffer presence would be ideal
  + F. Stine – Camden County currently wants to dredge lakes – “now is the time we have leverage to install permanent riparian buffers” before permit issuance from DEP land use regulation group
    - DEP needs to request that notice of violation (NOV) be resolved prior to permit – allowing giveback of buffers
  + F. Stine – are all specific violations with square footage listed and tabulated?
    - C. Squazzo will provide
  + N. Boonin – portion of Newton Creek east of rt. 168 and west of rt. 30 is also in urgent need of improvement – in some parts worse than those discussed here
    - Newton Creek watershed is only one entirely encompassed by Camden County
  + F. Stine – waterway is entirely designated as impaired due to micro-macro invertebrates, etc.

**AREA DISCUSSIONS**

* **Executive Committee** – No new business.
* **Grants** – No new business.
* **Education/Community Outreach –** M. Liebe stated that cleanup for the month of June 2017 was completed on Saturday, June 17th by a local Boy Scout troop, with guidance from Fred Stine. This cleanup was conducted in Edison Woods. M. Liebe stated that the next cleanup in 2017 would likely be in September. M. Downham and M. Liebe stated that this cleanup will be devoted to the Environmental Center to prepare for October 7th ECOpen House, and will include routine upkeep such as mowing. C. Squazzo will contact Barbara Prince to obtain list of groups participating in 2017 cleanups.
* **Planning Board Permits and Master Plan –** No new business.
* **Land Conservation and Open Space Projects –** In regards to HT banks along Newton Creek, M. Liebe initiated a motion to delegate $1,000 to the procurement of “no-mow zone” and other signage for ecologically-sensitive zones, including riparian buffers and freshwater wetlands. C. Squazzo stated that signs were also necessary for property lines and designating open space e.g. Lees Lane woods. M. Finizio requested that “no dumping” signs be installed adjacent to entrance of Lees Lane woods trail. M. Downham suggested that signage indicating turtle nesting be installed in applicable areas adjacent to Newton Creek. C. Squazzo stated that signage was most imperative near West Collingswood Heights tracts of open space and wetlands, and M. Liebe concurred.
* **Stormwater –** C. Squazzo stated that he had concerns with stormwater mitigation methods implemented during revitalization of the New Jersey Ave / Bluebird Park. M. Downham stated that Crystal Lake is in worse shape than ever, as a crew had been clearing knotweed, etc.north of the lake, and associated debris was subsequently carried by stormwater runoff and jammed against the dam. M. Downham stated that a tree is now growing in a separate portion of the lake. M. Liebe stated that a number of complaints have been received that the Environmental Commission hasn’t instituted measures to prevent geese from entering residents’ yards.
* **Newton Creek Watershed Association –** No new business.
* **Saddler’s Woods Management –** No new business.
* **Sustainability / Sustainable Haddon Township –** C. Martin attendedthe most recent meeting of the TriCounty Sustainability Alliance on Wednesday May 31st at the Camden County Environmental Center, and TriCSA’s Sustainable Sips meeting at the Oaklyn Manor on Wednesday June 7th. C. Martin stated the he would be joining the planning group for Sustainable Sips events with the intent of drawing events and interest to HT. M. Liebe, E. MacMinn, C. Martin, and Gwenne Baile will meet on an upcoming Friday to discuss the reformation of the now-defunct Sustainable Haddon Township, and solidify plans for online presence, community outreach, and preliminary group objectives.

**PUBLIC AND MEMBER COMMENTS**

* C. Martin inquired regarding the status of Haddon Township’s ERI. M. Liebe stated that it had been updated several years prior and was available for distribution on digital media. M. Liebe stated that an 8’x12’ shed was awaiting donation to the Environmental Center when moving resources permitted. C. Martin inquired regarding the feasibility of holding a town design competition for the HTEC logo, in line with a suggestion in the recent ANJEC bulletin as a method of public engagement. M. Finizio stated that she had developed a logo fairly recently that was printed on signage for EC events. C. Squazzo inquired whether HT Engineer Gregory Fusco had approved funding for installation of raingardens around town. Fred Stine suggested that the team consider screening the film “Merchants of Doubt” during one of its proposed seminars at the Environmental Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

* Motion to adjourn – M. Finizio – 9:07 pm
  + Seconded – M. Liebe, with unanimous consent

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday July 19th, 2017, 7:00 pm, 143 E. Ormond Avenue, Haddon Township, NJ 08107.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Martin

Secretary