HADDON TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Minutes

Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, July 19th, 2017, 7:30 pm**

Haddon Township Environmental and Historical Education Center

143 E. Ormond Avenue

Haddon Township, NJ 08107

Quorum was declared at 7:46 pm.

**FLAG SALUTE**

* Commission Vice Chair Marlene Finizio requested that all who choose to stand for the flag salute.

**CONFIRMATION OF SUNSHINE LAW**

* M. Finizio 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 | Absent (excused) |
| Marlene Finizio | Present |
| Maggi Liebe | Absent (excused) |
| Erin MacMinn | Present |
| Christopher Martin | Present |
| Patrick Mulroy | Absent (unexcused) |
| Christopher Squazzo | Absent (unexcused) |

**CALL TO ORDER – 7:50 pm**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 2017**

* N. Boonin requested a minor addition to the discussion of Newton Creek concerns.

**RE-ORGANIZATION**

* Alternate commissioner P. Mulroy will be attending university out-of-state and therefore resigned from his commission appointment.

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

* **Camden County Board of Health Complaint –** In a printed message that accompanied the meeting agenda, M. Liebe relayed the details of a conversation with Mr. Wagner of the Camden County Board of Health. Mr. Wagner would make allowances for the DEP-approved rain garden behind the Environmental Center, but insisted that routine maintenance be performed on all paths. Additionally, Mr. Wagner requested that siding on the Environmental Center be repaired so the building not appear blighted, and that vegetation within the parking lot and at the front of the building be cut. M. Liebe has handled the majority of trail maintenance and routine cutting tasks, and requests a biweekly commitment of a few hours from fellow commissioners. M. Liebe reiterated that mini-grant cleanups are only permitted to remove trash, and all beautification efforts fall outside the scope of such work. M. Liebe stated that the ability of DPW to maintain front and parking lot vegetation will be investigated, but that prior EC feedback had limited any ability of DPW to maintain trail areas or adjacent vegetation with cutting equipment. M. Liebe inquired with Jack Sworaski of the Camden County Division of Environmental Affairs regarding whether the County offered grants to assist in trail maintenance, but that the response was currently negative. M. Liebe will disseminate a request for beautification volunteers to all municipal groups that utilize the Environmental Center. E. MacMinn and C. Martin volunteered to assist beautification on the morning of July 22nd. E. MacMinn inquired whether authoring a letter for organizations looking for pro-bono type volunteer work might assist in beautification and maintenance; M. Finizio stated that she would discuss the matter with M. Liebe, but that a designated non-profit such as SWCA might have to author such a letter for tax purposes. M. Finizio stated that money from Comcast Cares Day might also be used toward beautification efforts.
* **Shed Donation –** M. Liebe stated that, pending Mayor Teague’s approval, DPW would move a donated 8’x12’ shed into place behind the Environmental Center, and that a prospective location need be cleared the weekend of July 22nd. M. Finizio stated that very large wood discs should be removed from the prospective shed location prior to DPW conducting the installation. N. Boonin states that measures should be taken to ensure the prospective shed location is properly levelled as well.
* **Prospective Signage** – M. Finizio re-introduced the issue discussed during the June EC meeting that signage prohibiting dumping, designating wetlands and no-mow zones, etc. should be procured for the rear of the Environmental Center, Lees Lane woods, etc. E. MacMinn suggested that signs not only state the “what”, but “why”, a concept seconded by C. Martin. M. Finizio tabled approval of funding for signage until the regular Sept EC meeting, at which increased attendance is anticipated and specific wording for each design can be determined.
* **Wasp’s Nest Removal –** E. MacMinn raised the issue of a massive wasp’s nest on a sign located on MacArthur Blvd. adjacent to Saddler’s Woods, that was the subject of numerous complaints and led to multiple insect stings. E. MacMinn apprised the commission of its treatment by local citizens using insecticide and homemade body armor, and shared a Facebook posting of video of the event. DPW declined to address the issue.

**AREA DISCUSSIONS**

* **Executive Committee** – No new business.
* **Grants** – M. Finizio distributed a schedule of mini-grants for 2017.
* **Education/Community Outreach –** The annual Haddon Township Block Party is to be held on September 23, 2017. EC will discuss staffing and tabling presence during Sept meeting. First annual Environmental Center ECOpen House is to be held on October 7, 2017. M. Liebe, E. MacMinn, C. Martin, and Gwenne Baile continue to meet independently and plan the event. A commitment form for participating vendors and organizations has been developed and disseminated, and was attached to meeting agenda. An event flyer is in development pending the obtainment of food/refreshment vendors.
* **Planning Board Permits and Master Plan –** Application 17-013 in regards to block 16.05, lot 13, zone R-1 was briefly discussed, for which a resident of 500 Avondale Ave was seeking relief to install a five (5) foot fence in a side yard where a fence of only three (3) feet is allowed. Environmental Commissioners had no comments to submit to record.
* **Land Conservation and Open Space Projects –** No new business.
* **Stormwater –** No new business.
* **Newton Creek Watershed Association –** No new business.
* **Saddler’s Woods Management –** No new business.
* **Sustainability / Sustainable Haddon Township –** M. Liebe, E. MacMinn, C. Martin, and Gwenne Baile met at Tonewood Brewery to discuss the ECOpen House event and the next steps for the municipal sustainability EC sub-committee. It was decided that, in consideration of the group’s current re-alignment of priorities away from Sustainable Jersey certification, the municipal group Sustainable Haddon Township would be officially renamed Green Haddon. E. MacMinn was charged with developing a Facebook presence for the group with assistance from fellow members. Official launch of the Green Haddon would occur at the ECOpen House on Oct 7. Any continued online or physical presence of Sustainable Haddon Township would occur independently of the Green Haddon initiative, and outside the scope of municipally-sanctioned activities. Additionally, C. Martin stated that he would joined the planning committee of “Sustainable Sips / Green Drinks” events for the TriCounty Sustainability Alliance, and continues to maintain an active presence in the TriCSA group as a Haddon Township representative.

**PUBLIC AND MEMBER COMMENTS**

* E. MacMinn announced that a cucumber pickling event was in development for the approaching weeks.

**ADJOURNMENT**

* Motion to adjourn – M. Finizio – 8:45 pm
  + Seconded – E. MacMinn, with unanimous consent

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday September 20th, 2017, 7:00 pm, 143 E. Ormond Avenue, Haddon Township, NJ 08107.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Martin

Secretary