HADDON TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Minutes

Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, September 20th, 2017, 7:00 pm**

Haddon Township Environmental and Historical Education Center

143 E. Ormond Avenue

Haddon Township, NJ 08107

Quorum was declared at 7:18 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 | Absent (excused) |
| Maggi Downham | Present |
| Marlene Finizio | Present |
| Maggi Liebe | Present |
| Erin MacMinn | Present |
| Christopher Martin | Present |
| Christopher Squazzo | Absent (reporting by phone) |

**CALL TO ORDER – 7:22 pm**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June/July 2017**

* Motion to approve – M. Liebe
  + Seconded – M. Finizio, with unanimous consent

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

* **Camden County Board of Health Complaint –** In regards to a complaint received from Mr. Wagner of the Camden County Board of Health, efforts by M. Liebe and others to maintain EC trails and property resolved the noted concerns to the Board of Health’s approval. M. Liebe continues to handle the majority of trail maintenance and routine cutting tasks, and requests a biweekly commitment of a few hours from fellow commissioners. In regards to a prior inquiry by E. MacMinn that ascertained the feasibility of authoring a letter for organizations looking for pro-bono type volunteer work in beautification and maintenance, M. Liebe stated that she would discuss the matter with the HT solicitor. M. Finizio stated that the Environmental Commission could likely pass a resolution to author such a letter, but that the solicitor should be consulted prior to any action. E. MacMinn stated that she would inquire with a nearby landscaper should M. Liebe provide the approval.
* **Prospective Signage** – M. Liebe stated that recent correspondence with Camden County officials indicated that “no mow” signage for Newton Creek riparian zones will be funded and installed by the County during the upcoming dredge of the waterway. M. Liebe stated that, in regards to excessive mowing and impingement of riparian zones, prior areas of concern along Newton Creek banks will no longer present an issue.

**AREA DISCUSSIONS**

* **Executive Committee** – M. Liebe inquired in regards to the delegation of chair administrative duties e.g. development and distribution of a monthly meeting agenda. It was unanimously agreed that a standardized formal agenda would be employed. C. Martin stated the future reviews of monthly minutes would be performed using the EC projector, in an effort to reduce paper waste.
* **Grants** – E. MacMinn stated that two local troops of Girl Scouts were awaiting the award of mini-grants for future cleanups.
* **Education/Community Outreach –** The annual Haddon Township Block Party is to be held on September 23, 2017. M. Finizio will coordinate, perform setup, and staff the table until 2 pm. C. Martin will staff the table for the remainder, and perform breakdown following its conclusion. ECOpen House flyers, a game wheel, candy rewards for the game wheel, EC banner, tent, clipboard, HT maps, and CDs will all be showcased at the EC booth. 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. M. Liebe developed a pumpkin design contest, and C. Martin developed an event flyer. Silver Spoon Catering Co. and The Square Meal have committed, and all municipal groups that utilize the Center have communicated intent to staff the event.
* **Planning Board Permits and Master Plan –** M. Downham noted **t**he conditional approval of application 13-002 in regards to block 20.02, lot 23, zone C-1. The application was in regards to an owner request for a use variance relief, to allow for a convenience store on the same lot as an auto service station (Conoco gas station) at 50 Haddon Ave, otherwise in violation of Section 142-38B93. The convenience store would replace auto service bays in the same footprint. Environmental Commissioners had no comments to submit to record.
* **Land Conservation and Open Space Projects –** No new business.
* **Stormwater –** M. Liebe stated thatHT Engineer Greg Fusco is pursuing funding for outfall pipe installation in Edison Woods and Saddler’s Woods. M. Liebe stated her intent to devote a portion of any awarded funding toward the installation of trail signage within areas of concern (Lees Lane woods, etc.). M. Downham inquired about the availability of County funds to address ongoing sediment issues within Crystal Lake. M. Downham stated that Crystal Lake issues have been apparent since 1991, around the time that a poodle became stuck in mud that had accumulated within the waterway. M. Downham stated that removing a dam within the lake would not provide a solution, and that even the northwest portion adjacent to Crystal Lake Pool had started to backfill, despite the lake once hosting bald eagles and carp. M. Liebe stated that M. Downham should encourage neighbors to attend local meetings and voice their shared discontent.
* **Newton Creek Watershed Association –** No new business.
* **Saddler’s Woods Management –** No new business.
* **Sustainability / Green Haddon –** C. Martin helped coordinate and attended the first Sustainable South Jersey meetup for the TriCounty Sustainability Alliance / Sustainable Cherry Hill at Collingswood Public Library on 9/13/17. C. Martin discussed the Park Ave bike route concept with Commissioner Joan Leonard, and secured an invite to the next meeting of the Collingswood Green Team to discuss future collaboration. C. Martin attended the monthly meeting of the TriCounty Sustainability Alliance on 9/14/2017, at which a representative of the NJ ChargEVC initiative spoke about assisting municipalities in securing approvals for EV charging stations and fostering EV use among residents. M. Liebe stated that HT was already researching the installation of an EV charging station in response to an inquiry from a Haddon Towne Center resident(s). The next TriCSA Sustainable Sips event is scheduled for 10/24/17 from 6-8 pm, at Zed’s Beer at 19 North Maple Ave, Marlton, 08053. The next TriCSA monthly meeting is scheduled for 10/25/17 at 7 pm at 1301 Park Blvd, Cherry Hill, 08002. Green Haddon will hold a final planning meeting for the ECOpen House in the approaching weeks.

**PUBLIC AND MEMBER COMMENTS**

* C. Martin noted a request from resident Gwenne Baile that HT yard waste collection be extended to a year-round schedule, from the current service schedule limited to Spring through Fall months.

**ADJOURNMENT**

* Motion to adjourn – M. Finizio – 8:22 pm
  + Seconded – E. MacMinn, with unanimous consent

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday October 18th, 2017, 7:00 pm, 143 E. Ormond Avenue, Haddon Township, NJ 08107.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Martin

Secretary