

Haddon Township Environmental Commission Meeting
Minutes
143 E. Ormond Avenue
Haddon Township, NJ
February 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Flag Salute

Roll Call:

Present: Marjorie 'Magi' Liebe (Chair), Marguerite 'Maggi' Downham, Amanda Vile Sickler, Cara Weismann, Kristian Hill, Christopher Squazzo (remote call in)

Absent: Marlene Finizio (flu recovery) Excused
Rebecca Sheehan

A quorum was declared.

Open Meeting Act Compliance: Compliance with Chapter 231, Public Law 1975 was confirmed that adequate notice of the meeting was posted specifying time, date, place, and agenda in the Retrospect newspaper and the Haddon Township Web Site (www.haddontwp.com)

Minutes: No minutes from January meeting which was cancelled due to weather.

Announcements: Next meeting is March 19, 2025.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Executive Committee: Our budget for this year remains at \$3,000. With \$10,000 in the Trust Account for supplies, materials and educational programs.

Reorganization: Magi Liebe announced that her term as Chair expires at the end of the year. She asked if anyone is interested in filling her spot to contact the Mayor Teague who appoints the chair.

Vice Chair. Maggi Downham volunteered and was approved by a voice vote. Marlene Finizio had served as vice chair in the past, but was absent.

Secretary. Kristian Hill volunteered and was approved by voice vote. He asked about recording the meetings, and will research his options.

Outreach/Program Coordinator. Cara Weismann would like to co-serve as Clean-Up coordinator with Chris Squazzo.

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K. Hill & A. Vile-Sickler requested to move forward with the amendment to the by-law for remote attendance. Amendment will be presented at our next meeting to review wording for remote calls of members to be counted as quorum. *Amendments to the By-Laws will need 2 consecutive meetings of review with 2 meeting for adoption and approved by 5 EC members.*

Planning/Zoning Report: M. Downham. reported that the Planning Board will hold their next meeting on the applications of 2 cannabis dispensaries. One on Black Horse Pike and one on Crescent Boulevard (Route 130) in West Collingswood Heights. Meeting date is March 6. Also noted that there was a problem with bamboo removal on the property at 21 Haddon Avenue where the demolished home allowed bamboo to travel onto adjoining properties.

Education/Events: M. Liebe is going to do more advertising for those Clean Community \$500 mini grants since nobody seems to be applying for them.

Environmental and Historical Center (EHC): M. Liebe reminded us that the Center is open the first Saturday of each month and a few selected Fridays during the year for school field-trips and programs.

Free Rabies Clinic will be held at the center on Saturday March 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 26th, 2025- Westmont Lion's Club will be building & installing, lofts and tool racks in the tool shed. EC members will need to help empty the shed the morning of April 26th by 9:00 a.m. before the volunteers arrive to start working on the build & installation. Materials will be order and deliver prior to April 26th Material & supplies for the program will be purchase using the 2024 donation to the EC by the Westmont Lion's Club. Funds that were deposited into the trust account for the purpose of this project.

Workshop and event this year:

On the schedule again this year is the plant & seed exchange, plus other join programs with the Camden County Master Gardeners. As well as our winter seasonal wreath making program.

New proposal of ideas:

C. Weismann proposed a Repair Café at the EHC. Repair Café is a way to help keep still-usable items that need repair out of the waste stream & landfills. This same type of

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programs has been held in North Jersey by The East Brunswick Public Library and the East Brunswick Sustainability Task Force with good response.

Also to partner with Tri-County Sustainability for a neighborhood fruit tree sharing activity whereby people who have fruit trees can share their produce with others.

A. Vile-Sickler proposed a composting activity with classes for the residents. Using the northeast side of the building as staging area for the compost.

A member of the public, Susan Tucker of Collingswood, also attended to ask if anyone in Haddon Township would allow the Retired Peace Officers of New Jersey to put a bin out to collect used clothing, shoes, and other items to be recycled and sold for their charity. M. Liebe will research their non-profit status and request guidance from the Township on this use.

EC does a sample test of new programs before offering to the resident.

M. Liebe is planning an activity of houseplant re-potting activity at the next EC meeting in March.

Associate Organizations:

Newton Creek Watershed – Chris Martin unable to attend this month’s meeting to discuss updates on the restoration project.

Saddler’s Woods – No Report

Shade Tree – No Report

Sustainability/Green Team Committee: M. Downham reported that she was overwhelmed by the paperwork and data entry difficulties with the Sustainable NJ dashboard. She contacted 7 nearby towns who had dropped out of the program and requested advice. In her report, she said all of the towns had at one time participated in the program but had stopped due to the onerous paperwork requirements, the time devoted to running the various projects, and also the expense necessary to fulfill some of the actions required for certifications. She received advice on applying for grants that were independent of the program and were more cost-effective.

Public Comment: See Susan Tucker’s request above.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17