

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting began promptly at 7:35 pm.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

“As required by the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided. The notice specified the time and place of the meeting to the extent known at the time. The notice was posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building, sent to the Daily Record and placed on file in the Township Clerk’s office”.

ROLL CALL

Present: Nicholas Agnoli, Michele Caron, Angelo Intile, Larry Kornreich, Monica Mianecki, Alex Nesterok, Pam Misiewicz, Richard Conklin, Nick Liao, Richard Xu

Absent with excuse: David Kalemba,

REORGANIZATION

Larry Kornreich nominated Mickey Trogani as Temporary Chairman. Seconded by Alex Nesterok.

Larry Kornreich nominated Alexander Nesterok as Chairman. Seconded by Monica Mianecki. No other nominations were made. All in favor by voice vote.

Larry Kornreich nominated Monica Mianecki as Vice Chairman. Seconded by Alex Nesterok. Angelo Intile nominated Michele Caron as Vice Chairman. Seconded by Nicholas Agnoli.

Monica Mianecki declined the nomination. No other nominations were made. Michele Caron was nominated for Vice Chairman. All in favor by voice vote.

Monica Mianecki nominated Mickey Trogani as the Recording Secretary. Seconded by Michele Caron, All in favor by voice vote.

Alexander Nesterok stated that the meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, subject to adjustment as appropriate based on the amount of business, at 7:30pm at 195 Changebridge Road, and read the dates for the record: 1/20/16, 2/17/16, 3/16/16,

4/20/16, 5/18/16, 6/15/16, 7/20/16, 8/17/16, 9/21/16, 10/19/16, 11/16/16, 12/21/16, and 1/18/17.

Alex Nesterok made a motion to accept the dates and times and to designate the Daily Record, The Citizen, and the Star Ledger (for publication purposes) the official newspapers for legal ads. All in favor by voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME PAM MISIEWICZ

The Commission welcomed Pam Misiewicz as a new member.

WELCOME DAVID KALEMBA

Mr. Kalemba had a prior engagement, but will be at the next meeting

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – Michele Caron had no report. She made a request that she not be liaison to the Board of Adjustment because she belongs to a Civic Organization that meets the same nights as the Board of Adjustment. Pam Misiewicz accepted the position as liaison to the Board of Adjustment.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Monica Miannecki reported that the meeting this morning was a reorganization meeting. They were talking a little bit about their meetings with the County Economic Development Commission. Ryan Conklin was also present. He discussed the redevelopment plan in place for the Bloomfield Avenue area. He also talked about the new zoning map that has been redone. Now it's in color. I believe it's also in compliance with the one on our website

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Andrew Pappachen was absent; no report.

OPEN SPACE – Angelo Intile had no report.

PLANNING BOARD – Lawrence Kornreich reported most of the meeting was reorganization. An application was approved for a bagel shop in the new Tuscan Village.

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE – Alexander Nesterok reported they met January 12th for reorganization. There were no items on the agenda. He was elected as vice chairman of the Committee.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES – Nicholas Liao reported for their environmental program, they have confirmed four schools out of five. Cedar Hill being the one who's dates do not

match with theirs. Valley View have been approved by the Board of Education. They plan to meet with Valley View in February for their gardening club, but it's not official yet. For Hilldale, William Mason and Woodmont, we have transportation costs and quotes. The funding has been provided by the Township. All we have to do is present the final signatures to the Board of Education for its approval.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Richard Conklin stated that he is happy to be liaison and that he is not here to influence the Commission in any way, shape or form. He just would like to be a resource for the Commission and will help any way he can.

CORRESPONDENCE

Alex Nesterok read a letter from PSE&G. It is notice of a statewide wetland permit application under an NJDEP, Division of Land Use regulation program, to support the maintenance of the electric overhead and underground transmission right-of-way. The letter will be filed in the Municipal Clerk's office. The NJDEP welcomes any comments on this application.

MINUTES

On a motion made by Michele Caron to accept the December 16th minutes as submitted and seconded by Larry Kornreich, the December 16, 2015 minutes were approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

April Events: Honoree for Arbor Day, and the poster contest.

Michele Caron reported that Arbor Day is April 29th and she has the official order form for the tree seedlings in tubes that we present to the kids in the winners' classes. One hundred seedlings come in a box; Larry Kornreich suggested ordering 1 box. Michele also reported that the State provides a pamphlet that describes how to plant the tree seedlings that goes with them when we give the trees out. The pamphlet could be printed out here. Trees should be order ASAP, because they run out very quickly. Larry Kornreich said he would take both the order form and the pamphlet to the Town Planning office and arrange for the purchase of the trees and the printing of the pamphlet.

Larry asked if anyone had a suggestion for honoree this year. Gary Annibal's name was mentioned, as was Cliff Siefert's. The Commission will think about honorees.

Alex asked is there anything on the poster contest. Michele has to meet with the new Board of Education Superintendent and explain who we are and what we do and how we do it. The Superintendent can get an idea of what Arbor Day is all about. We will ask her for her input as to how she would like the contest to proceed, and her thoughts on the

proposed theme. Larry asked if anybody had an idea for a theme. Alex said, I think we'll leave that for Old Business at the next meeting.

Grants for Camp Dawson project and trails along the Rockaway River

Larry Kornreich reported that Ryan Conklin had sent us an email about grants that were available from the Highlands: one having to do with Stream Corridor Protection Restoration for a \$35,000, and one for a Habitat Conservation & Management Plant grant for \$15,000. He took very eagerly to our proposed outdoor exhibit up at Camp Dawson and it fits the qualifications and requirements for the Habitat Conservation and Management plan. He has drafted an outline of what the grant application would need to have and also a proposed work plan to go with it, which was emailed to the Commission. If you have any comments, get them to me and I will fashion this for Ryan so he can submit it to the Township Committee for its review. Once he gets approval, Ryan can go to the Highlands Council and ask for the grant. Ryan indicated that if we propose a worthwhile project, we will get the money, up to \$15,000.

I don't know if you're aware, but the Rockaway River is going to be de-snagged. In order to do that, they have to have access points where they can get heavy equipment moved in place. Ryan is proposing that the staging areas be left in place and serve as community access points to the river. When I mentioned that we had an old plan to have a trail along the Rockaway River, going almost from that utility right-of-way down the river, south of River Road, Ryan thought that would be great and so I said, get a hold of the report. It's all been done and maybe we could get the grant for the Stream Corridor Protection Restoration.

Ryan was supposed to be here tonight to make this presentation, but he couldn't make it because he is sick. I will report back to him, but I would like to make a formal motion to proceed with the first Highlands grant, if this is something the Commission wants to move ahead with. You have the memo from Ryan which is the draft of the grant process and work statement.

ALEX NESTEROK – I think we should at least apply for the grant. I will speak to Ryan when he gets back and learn more about it. Alex asked, what happens if we don't get the grant. Larry replied, we go back to another strategy.

RICH CONKLIN – I understand from my meeting this afternoon with the Rockaway River Commission, Morris County will be coming out with a grant for construction of trails in March.

ALEX NESTEROK – We will watch out for that.

LARRY KORNREICH – Right now, let's get the grant to move ahead with the site at Camp Dawson. We have the concept drawing, so let's get the permit application started, do some engineering work and see what costs we're talking about. Larry Kornreich made a motion that the Commission authorize us to pursue a grant from the Highlands

Commission for the purpose of defining better an Outdoor Exhibit at Camp Dawson. Monica Miannecki seconded the motion. All in favor by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment to the Tree Permit Appeals Board

Larry Kornreich said that officially we have to have a representative on the Tree Permit Appeals Board. Pam Misiewscz volunteered to be the Commission's representative on the Tree Permit Appeals Board

Free Tree Seedlings: part of NJDEP tree recovery program

Larry Kornreich reported that we can, if we want to, receive up to 2,000 tree seedlings that are 1-3 ft. tall. They have no earth bulbs, they are just tree roots. There is no cost; it is part of Super Storm Sandy recovery. There is a cutoff date to apply in February. The question is, if we were to do this, how we would distribute the trees. Michele Caron asked if we could donate them to Lavallette for their Seagrass Program. Larry said he could ask Trudy Atkinson if that would be a possibility. The Commission asked Nick Liao if the High School Environmental Club would like to use the tree seedlings as part of their programming. The students will report back at the next meeting, if they want them or not. We don't have to accept as many as 2,000 trees.

Monica Miannecki reported that she has been in touch with the new watershed ambassador , Katie. She would be able to do a Rain barrel workshop for Montville in April. Monica will get the details on cost and report back to the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Angelo Intile and seconded by Monica Miannecki, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Claire (Mickey) Trogani

Secretary