



LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes February 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll

Present: Chair Doug Hankin, Dan Kurela, Rich Larsen, Maureen Bonner, first alternate Diane Gonski

Absent: Joanne Ward, Jess Howk

Public Comment None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from January 16, 2020 were approved by a motion from Maureen Bonner, seconded by Dan Kurela. All in favor.

Communications

Maria Scricco, a Girl Scout working on her Gold Award, attended the meeting to update the LTEC on her work regarding a documentary about light pollution. Ms. Scricco's project has received excellent support from the Girl Scout Councils. Ms. Scricco's project and hard work was recognized at a national gathering of Girl Scouts in Washington DC. There, Ms. Scricco wrote a bill about light pollution. Ms. Scricco will be staying in touch with the Commission to continue to share her success and future documentary.

The LTEC received a postcard from Lorna and Phil Wooldridge regarding their travels.

Communications were received from ANJEC regarding municipal plastic ban ordinances and encouraging more community support to ban single use plastics locally and throughout the state. Information regarding trainings for EC members has been received and shared with the Commission as well.

NJ Rivers Conference will be held at Centenary University on March 21st. Registration is free.

The Commission received sad news regarding the passing of a Commission member, Ms. Helen Danitz.

Old Business

TREX Plastic Challenge: Final 40 lbs. will be dropped off before next meeting. Shannon will email the bench selection link to Diane and Doug for the Church to make a selection.

Harmful Algae Bloom at Mt. Lake: Proposals were received regarding weed harvesting and costs of various studies and lake management plan development. Commission discussed the weed harvesting as a priority this year. The Mt. Lake Community Association has committed \$10,000 towards the harvesting for this year and is requesting a 50% match from Liberty Township to complete the work. Discussion continued regarding studies at the lake. The EC chose to pursue the following for priority studies, totaling about \$13,000: water quality sampling study, septic leachate study, and development of lake management plan. The proposed studies and plan will assist the community in long term management, prioritizing projects and obtaining grant support. A motion was made by Mr. Kurela to submit the proposals from Solitude Lake Management regarding studies to the Township Committee for support, seconded by Ms. Gonski. All in favor. March 4th Stakeholders meeting will have Aquatics Analyst to discuss weed harvesting proposal. Shannon will check with all Stakeholders to see if date is available.

ANJEC Grant: Leaflet and final report for next month.

Township Newsletter: Draft submitted to EC for review. Septic Maintenance Tips drafted by Mr. Kurela was already submitted for inclusion. Shannon will send to Deputy Clerk for EC update in the newsletter.

Mid-Winter progress on Meadow: The wood chips need to be cleared back and spread out along the bottom of the wall. Shannon will follow up with DPW. The grasses are growing in the native seed garden. Some areas had erosion and will need about 1 lb. of seed to replenish the area. Seeds have been started already for

planting under the mulberry tree and the Commission has decided to use black plastic to prep area first for one year. The meadow area planted last fall needs maintenance – clearing mulch away, removing any invasive/dead plants.

New Business

Cabin Fever Workshop: Four people have emailed/called to register for the event. Posters for our sandwich board signs will be ordered to further advertise. A motion was made by Doug Hankin to go forward with the purchase of 8 poster prints for advertising. Motion seconded by Maureen Bonner. All in favor.

Septic Education: EC discussed the plan and prioritize education needs and creating a timeline. Maureen and Dan will organize an outline and timeline for septic education.

Commission Member Reports: Commission members shared information from Congressman Gottheimer's Office to assist with grants and support for Harmful Algae Blooms prevention.

EC members discussed filters for stormwater outlets and permeable pavers at the beach parking lot. Ms. Schaaf will follow up with Eric Snyder for more information.

Expenditures: A motion was made by Ms. Bonner to approve reimbursing the Secretary \$49.95 for printer ink purchase. Motion seconded by Mr. Hankin. All in favor.

Adjournment: 9:16 pm
Approved 5.28.20