



LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2020**

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

Roll

Present: Chair Doug Hankin, Vice Chair Rich Larsen, Maureen Bonner, Jess Howk, Larry Supp, first alternate Diane Gonski, second alternate John DeMarco
Absent: Joanne Ward, Dan Kurela

Public Comment None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from August 20, 2020 were approved with a minor correction by a motion from Rich Larsen, seconded by Maureen Bonner. All in favor.

Communications None.

Old Business

Wildflower Garden brochure: Discussion pursued regarding printing and laminating the final documents for Peaceful Garden. Shannon will laminate the flyer and post at the garden site, the bulletin board by the Firehouse, as well as add to social media and website for public viewing. The garden tour ring set needs to be organized and made available for self-guided garden tours for public. A motion was made by Diane and seconded by Rich to approve the flyer for publication and posting. All in favor.

Water Testing Proposal from Solitude: Solitude provided results from water sampling that was conducted in lieu of treatment for the beach during summer. Regarding the Harmful Algae Bloom cell count sampling, results differed from NJDEP results. Discussion ensued regarding investigating the difference in methods and analysis between the two agencies. A motion was made by Doug to appoint Larry to investigate the HAB result discrepancies. Motion seconded by Rich. All in favor. Larry sampled two times for temperature, depth, Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and is awaiting sample results from Penn State. Cost was \$42 per sample and \$11 for mailing costs. \$45 postage for overnight guaranteed mail. A motion was made by Rich Larsen to reimburse Larry the cost of water sample analysis and postage. Motion seconded by Diane. All in favor, with Larry abstaining.

Weed Harvesting at Mountain Lake: The report from the weed harvesting and hydro-raking event over the summer was shared with all Commission members, as well as shared with the Township Committee. An impressive amount of biomass was removed

over the 9 day period. The Secretary will share the gratitude and thanks from the Environmental Commission via a thank you letter.

Septic Awareness Week: Discussion ensued on making September Septic Awareness month. Jess will post to Facebook and other social media pages to the community for awareness. EC members discussed proposal of a septic pumping challenge. Maureen will organize some details to the challenge with a deadline and possible prizes. Details will be shared with Commission and posted for community.

New Business

Facebook Moderator: The Secretary will fill in the role for now, since Jess will be leaving. Doug made a request to share Spotted Lanternfly information on the Facebook page for public awareness.

EC Budget: The members discussed preparing projects, printed materials or programs to utilize budgeted funds or prepare for 2021 request to Township. More details to be discussed in October. One priority item was outlining an annual budget line item for water testing/monitoring. Members also discussed the idea of the aerator for the dock. Shannon will inquire if Rec will be purchasing.

HAB at Mountain Lake: Latest results put the lake at a Watch level. Information for public will be posted on Facebook. Rich note that the clarity has been improving through results he sees during monthly sampling.

Commission Member Reports: Larry shared his experience water sampling with a homemade jug device. The sampling took place at the Mountain Lake Brook along Lakeside Drive North. This device can be used for depth sampling as well as storm sampling. In order for storm sampling data to be useful, we would need to calculate the flow rate.

Expenditures: A motion was made by Larry to continue the approval of Zoom licensing for virtual attendance at meetings. Motion seconded by Rich Larsen, with all in favor.

Adjournment: 8:35 pm

Approved 10/15/20