

South Plainfield Environmental Commission

Official Minutes - March 13, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Notice having been filed with the Courier News and S.P. Observer, Chairwoman Dorothy Miele called the Environmental Commission meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 8:02 pm.

Present: Dorothy Miele, Tom Walsh, Debra Leporino, John Ferguson, and Rich Houghton (planning board liaison)

Alternate members present: Jordan Mandel

Associate members present: Kathleen Benton and Lisa Roseo (secretary)

Others: Dr. Alice Tempel (environmental specialist)

Absent: Danielle Hurst, Adam Butrico and Jon Dean

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 13, 2019 meeting were reviewed and all were in favor of approval.

3. INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Benton was in attendance.

4. BUDGET - Dr. Tempel

- O&E (FY2019) (temporary budget \$500) Since the last meeting we spent \$0. YTD spent = \$425. The balance = \$75.
- Dr. Tempel entered a budget request which is essentially the same as last year. Dr. Tempel put \$500 into 'computer & technical svcs.' as the Green Team is now involved in Facebook and other media sites. She also requested \$700 for 'other specialized svcs.'. This will pay for consultant services if needed. Plus: \$150 for printing; \$150 for furniture; \$50 for office supplies; \$50 for periodicals/subscriptions; \$100 for botanical supplies and \$425 under 'dues & membership'.
- Clean Communities - (2018 grant \$45,915.07) Since the last meeting we spent \$4,362.80 on: \$475 for litter can maintenance; \$1,055.51 on sign enforcement / litter removal salary & wages; \$474.01 for truck repairs; \$38.97 on office supplies and \$950 on 'Litter-Free' event bags. YTD spent = \$14,505.20. Balance = \$32,008.87.
- Signs Trust Fund – Spent \$0. Deposits = \$0. The balance = \$595.12.
- Harris Steel Tree Fund – Since the last report we spent \$0. Deposits = \$0. Current balance is \$36,786.28.

5. COMMITTEE and LIAISON REPORTS

A. Council Liaison - Mr. J. Dean

- There was no report.

B. Planning Board Liaison - Mr. R. Houghton / Mr. B. Bythell

- Rich said at last night's meeting Kobo Products agreed to plant the non-invasive species we had requested. This location does not have wells on site which we requested info on.

C. Site Plan Review - Mr. A. Butrico / Mr. J. Mandel

- Jordan doesn't know if Adam met with the representatives from Atlas Evaluation on Montrose Avenue.
- R. Cusick (1055 New Market Ave.) - applicant wants to convert existing home to a three-family. This is a revised site plan. This requires a variance as the zone allows for only up to two-family. They are

proposing a parking lot next to the house. It lies in a flood zone, but the house is elevated above the 100 year flood line. After reviewing their landscaping plan, we will question their proposed combination of planting species. We will ask for a substitute for Burning Bush because it is invasive. We will also suggest they plant some street trees. Dr. Tempel will ask about their solid waste plan because their site plan shows a container enclosure; who will be handling their recyclables.

D. ERI - Ms. D. Leporino

- Debra and Dr. Tempel continue to work on the open space data base.

E. Clean Communities - Dr. A. Tempel

- Dr. Tempel reported that Dave Street will be doing presentations in Kennedy and Franklin School. He has developed an assembly that presents the Clean Communities message in a format resembling the PARR exams, to give the students practice in taking those exams.
- Adopt-a-Spot - Impact Church on New Market Avenue is planning to adopt the vacant-land stretch of New Market Avenue from HAW to Hamilton Blvd.
- Glitter Award - Debra said Dr. Tempel has given her the information and history on the Glitter Award program. Debra will take on the role of Steering Committee Chair. She will work on scheduling a membership meeting. The committee will plan a membership drive in the fall. Dr. Tempel said the Steering Committee also reviews the 'Adopt-a-Spot' applications. Dr. Tempel has been working for quite awhile as the lone CCAB member.

F. Land Use - Dr. A. Tempel

- The Boro is selling a lot on Kenneth Avenue that is adjacent to a privately-owned vacant lot. The Boro's lot is 20% wetlands and the contiguous lot is 100% wetlands. Presumably the interested buyer is thinking about combining the lots.

G. Forestry - Mr. J. Schmidt

- There was nothing to report.

H. Highland Avenue Woods / Public Education - Mrs. D. Miele

- Dorothy reported Dr. Tempel hosted a Daisy Troop on 3/3. Dr. Tempel said they spent some time in the nature center looking at the exhibits and also walked the white trail.
- Also hosted JulieAnn Montany's Middle School environmental science club plus Michelle Kirchofer from Grant School on 3/9. There were teachers and parents present. Dr. Tempel told Michelle Kirchofer that FOW offers formal classroom-type teaching in the woods; if we can get volunteers to help.

I. Historical Sites Preservation - Mr. L. Randolph

- Dorothy said there was nothing to report.

J. Pollution - Mr. A. Butrico / Ms. Danielle Hurst

- Cornell-Dublier - Dr. Tempel reported the EPA came into the Boro to apply for a tree permit because they have to remove 9 trees to get access to their monitoring station that will be in the Bound Brook. She explained the EPA is installing a 'pump & treat' system that will push down the water table so the polluted groundwater stops discharging in the Bound Brook. They can't start remediating the brook if the groundwater keeps bringing in more pollution. They will place monitoring valves in the brook. In order to access the area, they planned on clearing some trees. As it turned out, they were able to move the access point and avoid taking down big trees. The EPA will be removing contaminated soil from the wetlands area behind the site and restoring the wetland in conformance with NJDEP rules. They will be removing the big culvert. They will also be doing historical 'recordation' of this section, as they did for the buildings on site.

K. Green Team - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom reported the photo-shoot for our Sustainable NJ grant project was completed. Bob Longo and the students that won the essay contest were interviewed. It will now be edited. Information on our

Sustainable NJ progress and projects can be viewed on the SP Green Team and Boro of SP Facebook page.

L. Public Information & Technology -

- Dr. Tempel said Chris Cioffi contacted her to suggest we post information on the ‘trash challenge’ taking place internationally. It encourages people to clean littered areas and take before & after photos to post online. #trash tag, #litterfreeSP, #SPGreenTeam. Chris said he will post the info on SPEC’s Facebook page.

M. Stormwater Advisory Committee- Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom will be submitting his annual ‘Cut-it & leave-it’ article for The Observer and social media sites.
- Dr. Tempel mentioned the Boro has to file an annual report to the state on our storm water management activities. Part of the report has to contain information on how we’ve been educating the public. Dr. Tempel has been writing this report and submitting it to T&M Associates (Boro planner). They compile the report for the state on the Boro’s behalf. Dr. Tempel listed some of the activities and points we have accumulated.

N. Environmental Specialist - Dr. A. Tempel

- Kathleen Benton asked Dr. Tempel about possible litter cleanup sites for her High School students who have signed up to go out for Spring Volunteer Litter Cleanup. Dr. Tempel will send Kathleen a list of sites.

O. Chairwoman’s Report - Mrs. D. Miele

- There was nothing new to report.

6. INCOMING / OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

- A list of correspondences is attached.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- Kathleen reported the High School will now be designated \$40,000 for the greenhouse project. Rutgers had said that \$24,000 will not be enough. Kathleen spoke with Tom and he offered to correspond with her on some details and provide contacts that might have helpful information on greenhouse design, content etc.

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2019 at 8:00 pm in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Roseo
Environmental Commission Secretary

ACRONYMS

ANJEC	- Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions
BOA	- Board of Adjustment
CAG	- Community Advisory Group
CBA	- Clean Business Association
CCAB	- Clean Communities Advisory Board
CFMP	- Community Forestry Management Plan
DOT	- Department of Transportation
DPW	- Department of Public Works
EIS	- Environmental Impact Study
EPA	- Environmental Protection Agency
ERI	- Environmental Resources Inventory
EWA	- Edison Wetlands Association
FEMA	- Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOW	- Friends of the Woods
GBFCP	- Green Brook Flood Control Project
HAW	- Highland Avenue Woods
KCS	- Known Contaminated Sites
LEEDS	- The Lead in Energy and Environmental Design
MCDSWM	- Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management
MCUFAC	- Middlesex County Urban Forestry Advisory Committee
NJCF	- New Jersey Conservation Foundation
NJDEP	- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NOV	- Notice of Violation
OTOSP	- Oak Tree Open Space Parcel
PRP's	- Potentially Responsible Parties
ROSI	- Recreation and Open Space Inventory
ROW	- Right-of-Way
SPBA	- South Plainfield Business Association
SPEC	- South Plainfield Environmental Commission
USACE	- United States Army Corp of Engineers