

# South Plainfield Environmental Commission

## Official Minutes - May 8, 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 8:08 pm.

**Present:** Dorothy Miele, Tom Walsh, Debra Leporino, Danielle Hurst, Adam Burtrico, John Ferguson, and Rich Houghton (planning board liaison)

**Alternate members present:** Jordan Mandel

**Associate members present:** Lisa Roseo (secretary)

**Others:** Dr. Alice Tempel (environmental specialist)

**Absent:** John Dean

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 10, 2019 were reviewed and the following corrections were made: on page 2, under Site Plan Review (T-Mobile) - replace 'existing' generator with 'proposed'. On page 3, under Green Team: 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet - omit 'Tom will relay the info to our superintendent' After the corrections, all were in favor of approval.

### 3. INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tom Benton was in attendance.

### 4. BUDGET - Dr. A. Tempel

- O&E (FY2019) (temporary budget still in effect-\$500) Since the last meeting we spent \$0. YTD spent = \$425. Balance = \$50.
- Dr. Tempel said budget hearings took place. The budget should be adopted at the next public meeting. Our budget will include \$1,200 for the Green Team to use on 'electronic services'.
- Clean Communities - (2018 grant \$45,915.07) Since the last meeting we spent \$1,875.75 on: \$770.12 on sign enforcement and litter removal salary & wages; \$475 on litter can maintenance; \$75 for litter survey course; \$100 on a seminar; \$408 for safety vests and \$47.63 for spring cleanup picnic supplies. Spent YTD = \$18,013.50. Balance = \$27, 901.57.
- Signs Trust Fund – Spent \$0. The balance = \$595.12.
- Harris Steel Tree Fund – Since the last report we spent \$0. Deposits = \$0. Current balance is \$36,786.28.
- Sustainable Jersey PSE&G Capacity Building Grant (\$2,000) - Spent since March: \$1,500 to consultant for Green Team website construction & videography.

### 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 reported on 1111 Durham Avenue (Crossroads) - the applicant finalized some items that the planning board held over from last month. They had several corrections to be made on paper. Nothing new was proposed and no approvals have been given yet. They still need to do testing on the sanitary sewer system / storm drains. Somewhere along the line there is a leak, so they are commingling. Heavy

rains make the pipes flood through manholes. The applicant may have done the testing this past week when we had heavy rains.

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

- Joseph Penyak (309 Pulaski St.) - change of use application to a storage yard, which is already in use. There is existing broken pavement / stone in a gated lot. Currently, there are plows, salters, trucks etc. on the property. SPEC will ask what exactly they will be storing on site.
- James Felix Connors (100 Main St.) (revised site plan) - current contractor's storage yard with a single-family home. Applicant is proposing to install driveways, pavers, retaining walls and curbs. There were several requests made by the zoning board to their original site plan in 2017. They will improving the landscaping and overall site.
- DCD Capital (401 Durham Ave.) (revised plan) - proposed self storage facility and billboard. The site plan states the billboard will comply with zoning requirements. However, there is already a boro ordinance that regulates the maximum number of billboards allowed. The boro has already reached that. Reviewed the landscaping plan. They will be removing 21 trees, all within the building footprint. They have a tree replacement plan.

**D. ERI - Ms. D. Leporino**

- Debra and Dr. Tempel have been working together on CBA business. They will be back with ERI soon.

**E. Clean Communities - Dr. A. Tempel**

- Spring Cleanup - The litter cleanup took place last Saturday and was a successful event. There was a large turnout, particularly from Kathleen Benton's high school students. Dr. Tempel thanked the volunteers. Dave Street put together a presentation for the picnic. Cleanup reports show 95 volunteers. Unfortunately, many of the report forms didn't include number of bags filled. Dr. Tempel asked DPW to try and segregate the orange bags from the bulky waste. We can pay for the disposal out of the grant and get a scale ticket with the exact weight of litter.
- There were two students from Chris Cassio's high school class at the picnic interviewing Green Team members and Dr. Tempel while shooting footage. Dr. Tempel hopes to be able to get access to the video to post on the Green Team website.
- Dr. Tempel attended a NJ Clean Communities Council workshop launching the 2019 Visual Litter Survey. This survey will address waterfronts: beaches and stream fronts. Last year's survey dealt with roadside litter. Dr. Tempel explained the process: a data sheet is broken down into 12 broad and 127 narrow categories of litter. Each piece of litter is counted in designated areas. The data gathered will identify the largest source of litter and where it comes from. Then a plan can be developed and implemented to combat that source. Dr. Tempel asked Kathleen if her environmental science students might be interested in performing the survey. Kathleen thinks they would be; she and Dr. Tempel will consult.
- Adopt-a-Spot - received a new application from Impact Church on New Market Avenue. They propose to clean from South Clinton to Hamilton Blvd.

**F. Land Use - Dr. A. Tempel**

- There was nothing new to report.

**G. Forestry - Mr. J. Schmidt**

- OTOSP - Dr. Tempel said as discussed last month, the Eagle Scout candidate did not take down more trees than the agreed upon plan.

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

- Dorothy asked Dr. Tempel if she received her email about repairs needed to the nature center. Dr. Tempel forwarded the email to DPW.
- Jordan said he took a walk in HAW and would be willing to go back with a chainsaw to remove downed trees on the trails.

**I. Historical Sites Preservation - Mr. L. Randolph**

- There was nothing to report.

**J. Pollution - Mr. A. Butrico / Ms. D. Hurst**

- Adam reported he touched base with Mickey Gross, Middlesex County Health Dept. There is nothing new to report.
- Dr. Tempel said Kevin Kober emailed a photo of rainwater with an oil sheen running into a storm drain on Helen Street. She forwarded it to several departments. John Abbruzzese said it was a violation of the Fire Code, and he dispatched.

**K. Green Team - Mr. T. Walsh**

- Tom said he spoke with Bob Longo who said the video is complete. Dr. Tempel said the ladies did a nice job. The website will be structured to be more user friendly than the current boro website page.
- Tom submitted a green recycling article to 'The Observer' and several social media websites.
- Tom will obtain the DEA report from the Boro's 'Drug Take Back' day. That information goes toward Sustainable NJ action points.

**L Public Information & Technology -**

- Dr. Tempel said we will be doing another 'Coachlings' campaign aimed at convincing people to rinse their bottles and cans out before putting them in recycling bins.
- The 'MyWaste' app will be replaced by 'RecycleCoach'.

**M. Stormwater Advisory Committee- Mr. T. Walsh**

- Dr. Tempel said our webmaster was able to find all the missing pages and reset the links to our Stormwater Advisory and Education page on the Boro website.

**N. Environmental Specialist - Dr. A. Tempel**

- There was nothing additional to report.

**O. Chairwoman's Report - Mrs. D. Miele**

- There was nothing new to report.

**6. INCOMING / OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE**

- A list of correspondences is attached
- Dr. Tempel mentioned the boro now needs 12 points, instead of 10, worth of storm water educational material to the public. Some of the things we have been doing are worth fewer points. Dr. Tempel wrote up a summary of our 2018 activities. We can squeeze 12 points out of them. We need to get at least one higher-point value activity going this year. We need to get together to work on new storm water education.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

- John Ferguson said he has 20 of 25 municipalities that will review and possibly re-do their 'Hazard Mitigation Plan'.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- Dorothy mentioned she was contacted twice for information on the former Nike Missile Base site. A group from California is doing an environmental assessment on the Hadley Mall site. They want to know how the base was closed and what mitigation was done. Dr. Tempel said she was also contacted. Dorothy and Dr. Tempel referred the inquiries to our building department. This is a federal, US Army issue.
- Kathleen Benton met with Len Miller and Councilwoman Christine Faustini to discuss having her Environmental Science class students help with placing decals on boro storm drains as part of the state's storm water management requirements. 110 decals were ordered. Kathleen hopes they come in before the end of the school year.
- John listened to a Rutgers webinar discussing their work with the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve. They are working on funding for nature-based solutions to water quality. One of the

biggest funding sources is called ‘NJ Waterbank’, which is a partnership between the NJDEP and the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust. They provide lost cost financing for municipalities to help fund/support: rain gardens, gravel wetlands, bioswales, green roofs, closing landfills, tree trenches, retention basins, storm water retention tanks, permeable pavers, porous pavement/parking etc. They will provide 50% of the funding and 50% loan. John will provide more information as it becomes available.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 12, 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