

Clinton Township Environmental Commission (CTEC)

Thursday, April 4, 2024

1370 Route 31 North, Annandale, NJ 08801 (In-person); WebEx Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Attendees <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mario Caballero, Chair● Doug Pecota● Robert Parkanyi● Danielle Kearsley● Sandra Butcher, PB Liaison● Dan Aguanno, Alternate #2 Non-voting members: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Amy Switlyk, Council Liaison● Brianna Casario, Watershed Ambassador	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Geoff Varty, Vice Chair● Sandra Millward● Amelia Reitman
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Guest: None

Meeting commenced at 7:02 pm

This meeting is held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, NJSA 10:4-1 et seq. Annual notice having been forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.

Open to Public: none

Approve Minutes

March Meeting (Eligible members Mario Caballero, Geoff Varty, Sandra Millward, Doug Pecota, Robert Parkanyi, Danielle Kearsley, Amelia Reitman, Dan Aguanno).

- Minor correction to minutes suggested by DP.
- Motion by DP, seconded by RP, approved without dissent.

Correspondence

- Block 95, Lot 2 - Letter of Interpretation - Wetlands. Reviewed the LOI.

Reports

- **Council- Amy.**
 - Budget was introduced at the last Council Meeting. The budget will be voted on at the April 24th Council Meeting. The budget includes a 4.6 percent increase which includes typical increases such as benefits and salaries. Any comments on the budget can be sent to Amy.
 - Playground situation: The Field of Dreams playground was made to last 20 years and it is past that. In our affordable housing agreement, we have money to put into a new inclusive playground. Also asking for grant money. The grant would help pay for the new playground. No discussion regarding refurbishing the Field of Dreams. Brian would be the best person to speak to since he is the liaison to the recreation committee. They are not looking for grants to build a new Field of Dreams.
 - The EC budget was increased from \$1500 to \$2500.
- **Planning Board- SB.** Nothing to Report.

- **Open Space- DP.**
 - Discussed a little bit about all the properties.
 - Renew the farmers' contracts.
 - Spoke more about mushroom foraging.
 - Birds in the pavilion restricted and/or netting.
 - Hackett's there is a refrigerator that was dumped that needs to be removed.
 - Trees fell in the Beaver Brook ravine that need to be removed.
 - Acquisition of land continues.
 - Deer hunting blinds need to be removed.
 - Long list of DPW items to work on. Trying to prioritize them.
 - Dan tried to get into the meeting virtually and was not able to get in. Dan SADC's plan, Clinton Twp. discussed in preparation.
 - Amy: We have only 1 million dollars in our Open Space. Property Clinton Township is worth 13K per acre. Two parcels have been looked at for many years.
 - Dan asked about funding for ExxonMobil. As per Amy, the state is getting the appraisals.

- **Green Team - MC**
 - March 23, Annandale Train Station clean up canceled due to weather.
 - Next meeting in two weeks.
 - Adding June 9th, historic Beaver Brook walk.

- **Site Plan Review Subcommittee (DK, MC, GV)**
 - Block 68, Lot 9.02 - Clinton Self-Storage. Plans were reviewed and there were nine items noted as deficiencies in their plans. Mario will submit a letter to the planning board.

- **Watershed Ambassador – No Report**

Old business

- Danielle - Latest on E-Coli sampling along the Rockaway Creek. No updates.
- Amelia - Road Salt Testing - NHHS. Amelia Absent. No report.
- Mario - ANJEC \$1,500 Grant - Application due April 26. Mario needs ideas.
- Upcoming Events:
 - April 9 - CTSD Science Fair. Danielle and Robert will man the table. Pamphlets from Sustainable Jersey.
 - April 13 - Red Mill goes Green. Doug and Patty signed up.
 - April 20 - RHA Stream clean up. Sign 4a.
This Stream Cleanup registration link is for private sites only:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stream-cleanup-private-sites-tickets-851592495077?aff=oddtcreator>
 - April 27 - Clinton Twp. Community Day. Well water testing. Will be set up next to Clinton Twp Green Team. Morning and afternoon shift. Set up and break down.
 - May 3 - Melick's Bridge Riparian Reforestation - NEW DATE. Friday morning 10:30AM - 12PM.
 - May 4 - Clinton Twp. clean up. Placing order for seedlings. Hydration backpacks.
 - May 11 - Mushroom Foraging class 1. Located at Windy Acres.
 - May 18 - Mushroom Foraging class 2. Located at Windy Acres.

- o May 22 - Stream Assessment with RHA and CTSD.
- o September 28 - Highlands Green Fair and EV Car Show.

New Business

- **Woods & Waterways Grant - Information session April 25th 12-1:30 pm**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGOIBHkXdQwzLWThyn67YZII2gyZNe98UccW7EJ-LMhE00_g/viewform
- **April is Drive Electric Earth Month. Multiple EV Car Shows within North America:**
<https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/attend>
- **ANJEC Environmental Commission Success Strategies - April 13 9am-11:30am**
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc7bXptJmFM9z40dEAF9M-HZ3kH4poVFnDK1ICFy2hIPbwueg/viewform>
- **Highlands Watershed: DK – Role of Advisory Committee**
 1. Learn about the Highlands WRPP and the issues impacting water quality in the watershed.
 2. Attend meetings and provide feedback on data and draft plans, and project ideas.
 3. Be a liaison to decision-makers, business and local residents about the WRPP.
 4. Share local knowledge about potential projects, partners, and other opportunities.
 5. Partner on projects and assist in outreach.
 6. The full advisory committee will meet quarterly.
 7. There will be 3 subgroups (South Branch Raritan, North Branch Raritan, Black River/Lamington).
 8. A quarterly meeting will be held for each of these groups.

Open to Public - None

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by RP, seconded by DP, no objections.

Meeting ended: 7:55 PM

Business for next meeting (Thursday, May 2nd).