

HOLMDEL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
Held Via Zoom Conferencing

Mr. Kastning, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and read the following:

OPENING STATEMENT: “I hereby announce, pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided on January 8, 2021 to the Asbury Park Press, and the Two River Times. Notice has also been posted in the entrance of Town Hall, all pursuant to Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act.”

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence to Honor Military and Police Who Have Been Wounded or Killed in Action

Reorganization

Loretta read the Oath of Office to Bill, Karen, Janet, and John (at 7:40 p.m.)

Roll Call

Present: William Kastning, Chairperson
Ralph Blumenthal
Anthony Salerno
Karen Strickland
Chris Yonclas
Janet Jackel
John Galasso (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)
Loretta Coscia, Commission Secretary

Absent: Mike Nikolis
Randy Rauscher

Janet was seated for Randy and John was seated for Mike.

Motion by Chris seconded by Bill to appoint Karen as Vice Chairperson for 2021. Motion carried on voice vote.

Motion by Bill seconded by Ralph to approve the 2021 HEC meeting dates. Motion carried on voice vote.

Motion by Ralph seconded by Karen to appoint Loretta as Commission Secretary. Motion carried on voice vote.

Motion by Tony to keep the meeting time at 7:30 p.m. seconded by Karen and carried on voice vote.

HEC Regular Meeting

Budget - Needs to be specific by dollar and for what purpose. \$5,000 was put into budget - \$2,500 for expenses and \$2,500 for salaries.

Proposed 2021 allocation (\$5000) as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Engineer | \$1,500 |
| Loretta | \$1,200 |
| ANJEC/Earth Day/Education | \$1,000 |
| Other Expenses | \$1,000 |
| Communications | \$300 |

Motion by Ralph seconded by John, for Loretta to prepare a memo to Steven Winters, copying Bonnie Imposimato and Cherron Rountree with the HEC budget recommendations for 2021. Motion carried by voice vote.

Stormwater Ordinance – Loretta inquired from Cherron and copied the Engineer for an update on the Stormwater Ordinance. No response received. Bill will call Cherron to find out status. We are running out of time as this must be approved by March 2.

Ralph suggested asking for a liaison to Township Committee to attend monthly HEC meetings. He did have some conversations with Prakash. Public Works liaison from the Township Committee is DJ Luccarelli. Invite DJ Luccarelli to next meeting, or another Township Committee representative.

Rutgers Study on Mahoras Brook – Ralph stated that the previous next step is for Rutgers to put rain gauges and meters into the stream to see what was happening. We believe this was done. He does not know if any measurements were taken. Bill to speak with Mike as to whether this is being pushed along.

Bill asked about the Sheepshead Bagel store on Route 35, within 50 feet of the Mahoras Brook. It appears that they enlarged the parking lot, increasing

impervious surface. This will exacerbate the flooding, as it is paved asphalt. Loretta will check with Loni to see if permits were obtained. Ralph stated that years back, there was a discussion that they wanted to expand. However, it was pointed out that they would need a variety of permits and would have to go back to the Planning Board for review. Permits should have been obtained. Ralph said that what is there predates zoning.

John Galasso introduced himself and gave some background information on his education and career. His Master's Degree is in Environmental Engineering. He works at the AT&T site, now Lucent. He is focused strictly on-site remediation all over the country.

Open Space – Bill discussed with the Mayor and Administration the need to protect open space. Ralph provided him with a letter and attachment, a wish list sent to both on open space they would like to preserve. A lot of developers are trying to develop any open space in Holmdel. Limited factor is funding. Bill said there is a plan in the works, but at this time, he is not privy to share the plan to protect farmland/open space.

Ralph said there should be significant funding available from the open space tax. The Chase tract has 20-year bonds coming due. The F&F tract was a lesser cost, three years later with bonds running out. With capital and interest, it does generate over one million per year. A sizable amount of money will be available.

Bill resent the memo with the list of open space. The HEC will look at it again and reprioritize the list. Bill to send list sent to Cherron and will send to Loretta for distribution to the Commission members.

Ralph said years ago there was a separate Open Space and Agriculture Committee in 1999. It was disbanded and the responsibility given to the HEC. In 2019 there were several meetings to go over the list of undeveloped property in Holmdel.

Bill stated that another committee requirement by the State is an Agricultural Committee. At the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, where he is Executive Director, they helped preserve the Callan farm with funding from the State. Since that time, it has been deactivated and that has to be re-activated to ensure funding granted by the state remains. They are looking for candidates to join that committee.

Budget – Continued

Bill stated that he had promised Chris help to obtain ArcGIS software. Ralph said a complexity occurred and the software would cost thousands of dollars. He suggested FOHOS purchase the software at the significantly lower nonprofit cost. Janet will check with Tom Spang as to where that stands. Bill said the program is good, but requires a robust computer. Chris said his computer could handle the program if they were to receive the software through FOHOS. It will be a valuable tool for HEC. Similarly, the New Jersey Map (2) web-based program is exceptional for evaluating environmental characteristics and open space. There is an online tutorial available.

Other Business

Karen mentioned that stormwater drains mentioned at a previous meeting are being replaced.

Eagle Scout is doing paperwork for trail enhancement. He asked Victor Stevens to be his coach. Bob Ward will also be involved. Karen asked about a beneficiary of the project to be listed on the paperwork. All agreed it should be all the residents in Holmdel. Beneficiary representative is the HEC, with Loreta as contact person.

Pool Club – tennis courts were torn down. The dirt from the fire house construction is being placed where tennis courts were. They are raising the dirt 4 or 5 feet, and Karen wonders if this is a concern. Chris said it is in the control of Freehold Soil Conservation District. A silt fence was put around the area. Karen to contact Township Engineer, Ben Matlack, regarding runoff into the stream stating that this is a concern discussed at the HEC meeting.

Adjournment

There being no other business at 8:45 p.m., **motion** to adjourn by Ralph seconded by Chris. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Coscia