

Pennington Borough Environmental Commission - *DRAFT*
Minutes for August 21, 2023 at 7:30 pm
Zoom Virtual

Notetaker: Joann Held

Attending: Joann Held, Brian Friedlich, Nancy Fishman, Jim Fuger, Andrew Jackson, Kieran John, Dan Rubenstein, Yasmine Zein, John Valenza

Guest: Gabe Rosko

1. Public comment - None
2. Review of past minutes - July 2023
 - a) Motion to Approve by Jim Fuger
 - b) Second by Kieran John
3. Administrative Items
 - a) EC Members (Joann Held)

Nell Haughton has been appointed to the Pennington Environmental Commission as Alternate 2. Our membership is now complete.
 - b) 2024 Budget (Joann Held & John Valenza)

We have been asked to submit our Budget request for 2024. It will most likely be for \$500. Joann will check what ANJEC dues are likely to be so that we know how much we will have leftover for other expenses.
 - c) Report to Borough Council on September 5 (Joann Held)

Joann will give a brief report on EC activities to the Borough Council at their meeting on September 5.
 - d) Sourland Mountains Watershed Map (Nancy)

Nancy has framed the Sourland Mountains Watershed Map that was provided by the Sourlands Conservancy. We need to find a place to hang it that will be accessible.
 - e) Mission/Vision Statements (Kieran John)

Kieran gave a slide presentation overviewing the purpose and format of mission and vision statements and providing the latest draft based on comments from EC members. Additional comments and suggestions were made. Kieran will provide a follow-up at the September meeting.
4. Borough Council Report (John Valenza)

At the last Borough Council meeting, a resident questioned the Borough's stormwater amendment, which prohibits residents from making physical connections to the Borough's system.

5. Planning/Zoning Board Report (Andy Jackson)
 - a) There was no review activity at the last Planning/Zoning Board meeting.
 - b) The Board established a subcommittee to review the recommendations in the Master Plan Re-examination Report Recommendations.
 - c) Joann asked for a summary of the timeline followed for receiving and reviewing Zoning Board documents.
6. Open Space Report (Nancy Fishman) – nothing to report
7. Carbon Neutral Workgroup (Brian Friedlich) – nothing to report
8. Green Team and Sustainable Jersey Update (Joann Held)
 - a) The Green Team is hoping to host a metal collection event in the Fall.
 - b) The Green Team will be at Hopewell Harvest Fair. Their focus will be on residential organic waste composting, with a speed recycling activity to teach the basic principles.
9. New Business
 - a) Deer Management (Dan Rubenstein)

Dan provided an overview of the reasons why the Borough cannot control its deer population on its own. A successful program will require cooperation with neighboring communities. It is also essential to be consistent from year to year.
 - b) No Net Loss Pledge (All)

This is a potential voluntary program that would urge residents who take down a tree, to replace it with at least one. EC members raised concerns regarding fire hazard, climate resiliency, and the MS4 Permit requirements.
10. Future Issues
 - a) Recycling Education
 - b) MS4 Permit: training, public outreach, funding

- c) Inviting teens to join the EC (as Junior Members)
- d) Sustainable Jersey Certification
- e) Light Pollution restrictions

11.Next Meeting – September 18, 7:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm