

Pennington Borough Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes for June 19, 7:30 pm
Zoom Virtual

Attendees: Joann Held (Acting Chair), Andy Jackson, Nancy Fishman, Brian Friedlich, Kieran John, Jim Fuger (Notetaker).

Unable to attend: Dan Rubenstein, John Valenza (Boro council liaison)

1. Public comment

There were no comments from the public.

2. Review of past minutes- May 2023

Motion to approve (as amended) by Andy Jackson, seconded by Jim Fuger. All were in favor.

3. Administrative Items

a) Committee Chairs Meeting – May 23

Boro to hold meetings quarterly, next one scheduled for October. Requested single point of contact for each commission for website changes and email blasts, Joann to fill that role for now. There was a reminder on pre-approval processes for purchases. Volunteer handbook was sent to all EC members by Joann.

b) Arboretum Update

Successful recruiting at Pennington Day, completed 2 consecutive Saturday morning clean-up sessions, volunteer work nearing completion. Will plan on article for Boro quarterly newsletter.

c) Watershed Map from the Sourlands Conservancy

Joann emailed a copy to EC members but she has large print out of it. All agreed it was very informative and should assist in future water management discussions.

d) Alternate member open positions

Joann is to check with the mayor on the status of the 2 open spots.

4. Borough Council Report (John Valenza)

There was nothing to report (John unable to attend).

5. Planning/Zoning Board Report (Andy Jackson)

Approved site plan for PALS (Princeton Adult Living Services) with a parking plan.

6. Pennington Day Review – All

All agreed that despite the weather, it was a good turnout and we had lots of visitors to the booth. Got many Arboretum volunteers and participation from children and young adults on the trivia games – need more prizes next year!

7. Open Space Report (Nancy Fishman)

Andy Jackson recently presented the plan on the update to the Master Plan to the Open Space Committee

8. Carbon Neutral Workgroup (Brian Friedlich)

Last meeting was cancelled but emission results for 2022 compared to 2018 were shared with the workgroup.

9. Green Team and Sustainable Jersey Update (Joann Held)

a) Green Gathering: June 22 6:30-8 pm at The Watershed

Speakers from Sustainable New Jersey, networking and idea sharing.

b) Recycling at the Pennington Farmers Market

Market is every Saturday at Rosedale Mills, Recycling is last Saturday of the month.

c) Hopewell Township Sustainable New Jersey Certification

Hopewell was recently awarded Bronze, we will pursue for Pennington (see Future Issues below).

10. Ongoing Business

None.

11. New Business

a) Question on new 4000 kw light bulbs for Downtown to be supplied by PSE&G and if that exceeded max (Hopewell has a 2,700 max?).

b) Given recent Canadian wildfire smoke incident, would it make sense to publish air quality index on our website?

12. Future Issues

a) MS4 Permit: training, public outreach, funding

b) Deer Management

c) Developing a Vision Statement for the EC

Also will need an Environmental Statement for the Boro – Kieran to do some preliminary research.

d) Inviting teens to join the EC (as Junior Members)

e) Sustainable Jersey Certification

13. Next Meeting – July 17th, 7:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm

Notes submitted by Jim Fuger