

Hopewell Township Environmental Commission

Hopewell Township Municipal Offices

590 Shiloh Pike, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Ph. 856 455 1230

MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2024 / 7:00 PM

Sunshine Statement: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the meetings were advertised in the Daily Journal on January 20, 2024, and the South Jersey Times on January 22, 2024, and a notice was placed on the Municipal bulletin board as of the same date. The meetings are in compliance with Chapter 231 P.L., 1975 (The Sunshine Act)

Regular monthly meeting: Hopewell Township Municipal Bldg. 590 Shiloh Pike, Bridgeton NJ Members: K. Strait, J. Hankins, J. Lewis, M. Carll, B. Doremus, B. McClain, C. Lalancette

1.) Call to order March 6, 2024 / approx. 7:00

2.) Public Meeting Act. Compliance

3.) A correction was made in regard to the February 7 minutes. Jerry made a motion to accept the minutes. Beth second the motion. All in agreement – “I”. Minutes were approved with the correction made.

4.) LAND USE BOARD- KEN

- A February meeting was held. A bulk variance for front yard setback was granted to allow construction of a porch and room addition at a property on River Rd. There were no environmental issues with this application.
- A second development application was deemed incomplete because the property owner did not notify adjacent landowners or publish the required newspaper notice..The applicant also will need a use variance for a multi-family dwelling in the Agricultural Zone.
- Went to executive session to do the annual land use liability training required by the township insurance company. Land use board has a new solicitor. There is no agenda at this time for March. Not known at this time if the new solicitor will put the ERI supplement on the agenda in March or April

5.) OLD BUSINESS – BURT / CAWA

A.) Events have been planned for the following months.

March 16 - A Walk at Shepherds Mill Pond

April 6 – Annual Bridgeton City Clean Up – check Facebook

May 18 – 10:00am Paddle on the Raceway

There will be an update for events that will occur in June, September and October.

B.) Newsletter / Marion *New Jersey Makers Day – Back yard habitat for birds. Because of a date confliction, *New Jersey Makers Day* will be posted at another time. It has been replaced with: *Six steps to create a more organic lawn.***

Some residents of Hopewell Twp have various concerns, questions etc. regarding mowing and clearing of trees, shrubs and plants in the park. A suggestion was made that there be a post on the Facebook Website. A flyer will be created for the twp. Facebook page.

C.) POLLINATOR GARDEN – JANE

Planting the pollinator garden has been making steady progress. Girl Scouts have been enjoying the experience of planting bulbs and seeds with Jane while learning a great deal in the process. Daffodils are emerging in the garden as are the seeds. Native seeds of NJ were given to Jane by a past attendee.

D.) Barret Run Trail Sign.

The Barret Run Trail sign will soon be here (or quite possibly is here) as shipping is now in progress. Cost is \$1,745.00 which includes postage cost of mailing. Installation is not included in the cost.

E.) BARRETTS RUN INVASIVE SPECIES COUNTROL – JERRY

Maintenance of the new park is taken care of by Hopewell Twp. Maintenance crew. Responsibilities: Mowing, removing the invasive Bradford pear trees, multiflora roses and more, in an effort to retain the beauty of the meadow while also leaving some of the plants and trees that are native. Some selectively chosen Eastern Red Cedar will remain as it is a native tree.

F.) ERI REVISIONS – KEN

Sent supplement to Jeannette and Beth which will then go to the Land Use Board for review. This may not be until the month of April or May.

G.) PINEY POINT TRAIL BROCHURE AND TRAIL MARKERS - KEN AND JANE

New markers used on the trails to be secured on to the trees will have reflective numbers like found on mailboxes and therefore more easily seen. A new brochure was sent to be printed in a quantity of 100 brochures. As of the March 6th there has not been a response in regard to the completion of the brochures. Beth will contact with John for a status update.

6.) NEW BUSINESS

Marion mentioned that ANJEC was looking for volunteers to evaluate the invasiveness of Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). It is showing up alongside streams and elsewhere and continues to do so. In 2023 a program was set in place to curb the problem but it did not continue. Ken mentioned that ANJEC has several interesting webinars in the near future with one being: FUNDAMENTALS OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS. April meeting will involve discussion and decisions regarding Hopewell Day as well as other necessary topics.

7.) MISCELLANIOUS ITEMS: Nothing relevant at this time

8.) PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

9.) ADJOURNMENT: 8:30pm. Beth made a motion to close. Jane 2nd it.

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 3rd submitted by Cheryl Lalancette- secretary