

SLH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 1, 2016  
7:00 P.M.

1.) Call to Order, Flag Salute, and Open Public Meetings Notification

Attendance: Sandy Dennison, Lisa Ball-O'Brien, Robert Merriken, Kat Crippen, Betty Sturdy, Nancy Hayduk, Gaylen Nolan, Gary McLean

Existing members introduced themselves and welcomed new members Lisa ball-O'Brien and Sandy Denison. Lisa and Sandy introduced themselves and explained their interests within the community and for their family. They look forward to getting involved.

2.) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: December 2015

Motion/second: On a motion by Robert Merriken, seconded by Betty Sturdy, all aye.

3.) Communications

Kat noted that the Assoc. of NJ Environmental Commissions Training would be held on - **Saturday, March 12, 9am - 1:30pm** Tatum Park, Heath Room, Red Hill Road, Middletown. She encouraged all to attend. We have a workshop membership, so attendance is free for SLH members.

4.) Discussion

a.) Chairperson's Appointment (minutes by Nancy Hayduk)

Regarding Mayor O'Brien's request for the commission to offer recommendations for an Env. Comm. chairperson: The Commission members voiced opinions that Kat Crippen has done a strong job at chairing the En. Comm. The Commission needs a strong chair to carry the voice and vision of the Commission to the Mayor and Council, the Borough administration and the public. Kat is willing to again serve as the chair and the commission members agreed unanimously to recommend Kat Crippen as the En. Comm. chairperson.

b.) Planning Board Rep

Regarding Mayor O'Brien's request for the commission to offer recommendations for a member to serve as the Class 2 Planning Board member: Kat noted that this position had been held by several different people during the time the Commission has been active. She had been the representative for the past 3 years and noted that, if she was to be chair again, she would prefer to split up the workload and let someone else be the Planning Board person. Members felt that Nancy Hayduk would be an excellent choice due to her knowledge of the Land Use laws. Nancy agreed that she would be willing to take the appointment.

c.) 2016 Meeting Dates

Kat distributed the proposed meeting schedule for 2016. Everyone was in agreement to keep the meetings on the first Monday of the month. Meetings closest to July 4 and Labor Day would be the Tuesday immediately following the holiday. Dates are: March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, Tuesday, July 5, August 1, Tuesday, Sept. 6, October 3, November 7 and December 5

d.) Projects: Municipal Energy Audit/Sustainable Jersey/NRI/Community Forestry/Etc. Kat reviewed the list of pending projects. She asked Sandy if she would be interested in taking on the Sustainable Jersey initiative and explained a little about the project. This has been stalled for some time due to lack of time and resources. Sandy said she would look into it. Kat noted that conducting the Municipal Energy Audit would be a huge component for Sustainable Jersey. Now that Robert Merriken is on Council and serving as the Utilities Chair, it is hoped he will be able to move this forward. Kat has a meeting scheduled with Environtactics about having a Natural Resources Inventory done. She noted that she made a presentation at a December Council meeting about the Community Forestry project and that the Council seemed interested. She hopes this will be able to go forward in 2016.

5.) Old Business

a.) Parks Update – Kat and Nancy noted that they would be again pursuing the restoration, replanting and reforestation plans for Allaire Road and for Fletcher. The window of opportunity to do some December

planting was missed as no purchase order was completed by the Borough office in time. Kat noted that Council President Sara King wanted to meet with her and Nancy, Jay Delaney, and whomever the Council chair for Parks & Recreation would be. This way, all involved parties would be together and there would be less chance for miscommunications.

- b.) Updating Open Space Inventory – Kat to provide Gary with the block and lot numbers. The Green Acres legal representative said she needs to receive a letter from the Mayor and Borough Attorney stating which parcels should have been included on the last ROSI update.
- c.) Natural Resources Inventory – Kat to meet with Environtactics.
- d.) Community Forestry Conservation plan -- pending
- e.) Osprey Nesting Pole installation by JCP&L. Nancy said the pole at the Jimmy Byrne's site was being used, but last year was a predator got in and ruined the nest. She said the back of SLH public works would probably be the best spot if we were to install a pole. She can check with Conserve Wildlife on this.

6.) New Business

- a.) 2016 Earth Day Cleanup Date – Kat noted the dates closest to Earth Day were April 16 or 23 and asked everyone's input. The Commission members indicated the base of operations would be Black Creek Park on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sandy asked if this was the only place that clean-up would take place. Members noted that in the past, if we have many participants, people have formed teams and gone to other areas, such as off Shore Road. If we have the people on hand, we can certainly expand where we clean but the main base would be Black Creek. Kat and John will again donate the barbecue lunch.
- b.) Robert Merriken spoke to an email that council members received from homeowners along Shore Road who wanted the riparian buffer removed. Nancy was familiar with the letter with response from Spring Lake mayor Jen Naughton who told the residents there will be a berm built in SL and will be planted so there would no longer be a view there. We can't touch the buffer; we could do a clean up but you are not allowed to cut in the wetlands ever. It does protect the homes from flooding as well as serve as wildlife habitat and prevents bank erosion.

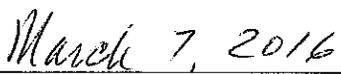
7.) Voice of the Public

Suzanne Talbot, 923 Wall Road, said she'd lost a tree during the blizzard, has lots of limbs coming down, can't really afford to get rid of tree. She asked if the Borough had a service to help or is anyone had ideas. Kat asked if Jeff Algor were still doing projects for people needing assistance and Sandy said she could check. Ms. Talbot's contacts are: 908-489-9218 cell or 732-542-0998 at work in Eatontown.

8.) Adjournment

Motion/second: On a motion by Betty Sturdy, seconded by Robert Merriken, all aye, meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

  
Kathleen Crippen, Chair

  
Date: