

SLH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 6, 2017  
7:00 P.M.

- 1.) Call to Order, Flag Salute, and Open Public Meetings Notification  
Attendees: Rachel Castellon, Lisa Ball-O'Brien, Robert Merriken, Kat Crippen, Betty Sturdy, Gaylen Nolan, Nancy Maclearie Hayduk
  
- 2.) Annual Housekeeping – Kat review the Open Public Meeting Act and Open Public Records Act requirements. She advised putting electronic devices away, as all message, texts, etc., sent or received during a meeting can be subject to OPRA. She distributed the proposed meeting schedule for 2017 and all were in agreement with it; the meeting will remain on the first Monday of the month except in July and September, when it will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday. Kat will have the Borough Clerk advertise the schedule for the year. She reminded everyone that the annual ANJEC conference for new and existing members was coming up in March and encouraged all to attend.  
  
New member Rachel Castellon introduced herself; she has a background in building and zoning code as well as being a local Scout leader. She is looking forward to getting involved and working with the Commission. Other members introduced themselves briefly.
  
- 3.) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: December 2016  
On a motion by Robert Merriken and seconded by Betty Sturdy, all voted aye to accept the December meeting minutes.
  
- 4.) Communications -- none
  
- 5.) Old Business
  - a.) Sustainable Jersey – Lisa reported that she and Sandy met to discuss what was needed for Sustainable Jersey. She said plans for the Farmers Market is coming along well; Sandy hopes to get it going with Allaire Community Farm as the anchor farm on Fridays and Saturdays during the summer at the Gazebo outside of Borough Hall. Sandy has started entering information on the SJ website and is looking for Silver Status. Lisa reported that she put out a call for volunteers for a Green Team and has had a very nice response to it; 2 people are specifically interested in the Community Garden, and several are with environmental club at school. Rachel asked about Sustainable Jersey and if funding was available. Kat said yes. Lisa said they would start a Facebook page for the Green Team; Nancy said she would send a link to Perth Amboy's web site and how they link to their SJ program. Lisa will follow up with Shrewsbury on the Community Garden which would be located at the Fletcher property.
  
  - b.) Parks Update – 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mayor Tom O'Brien was in the audience and spoke about the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the town in late summer or early fall; he would like to put together a group and all ideas were welcome. Kat noted that this would be an excellent tie-in for the planned groundbreaking of the butterfly garden at Fletcher.
  
  - c.) Site Plan Review – Kat distributed copies of a site plan forwarded by the DEP. The property is in Spring Lake, but SLH is within 200 feet so is being noticed. Nancy recalled there had been issues with the property in the past with an illegal bulkhead having been installed. She said she can check with Spring Lake to see what is on file and we can review and write a letter. Nancy explained the tidelands claim process. She noted that in the past, there were restrictions put on the lot and were those ever satisfied or are they still pending? Nancy will investigate and report.

d.) Natural Resources Inventory – Nancy is working on this and this will be good for points with Sustainable Jersey. She did some legwork and figured out who in the County she could speak with. The information we need is with the county and the borough and she has already started gathering it. She has an outline and is building it piece by piece. We are charter members of the Monmouth County Map Group and this allows us to have free mapping. She has been working with 2 people in county. S pointed out one thing we need to do is to keep saving site plans that have the topography map and they become part of the NRI. She is reaching out to other resources – needs old pictures. The NRI starts with the history of the town and so needs a back story. She displayed a NRI she had written when saving the Jimmy Byrne's site in Sea Girt. ANJEC has a \$1500 stewardship grant that we can pursue to pay for costs incurred. Kat & former Environmental Commission member Gary Mennie could do tree/plant/animal updates. Anyone who wants to help in anyway please let her know. Grant could be used to pay Joe May for x number of hours to do the map.

Nancy also added an item about moving the osprey nest to see if we can get the platform moved from the Jimmy Byrne site either further east or into Black Creek Park. She is talking to the people involved with nesting poles, moving a pole, etc., so we will see if we can get the nest relocated.

John Tangeman in audience suggested Black Creek would be a good spot as the pond is infested with carp who have eaten the entire ecosystem. The osprey might be encouraged to feed there.

e.) Open Space Inventory Update – Kat is working on this with someone in Gary McLean's office

f.) Proposed Ordinances – Kat distributed a copy of the Woodbury, NJ, ordinance on backyard hens. The Commission has received a number of questions as to whether hens are allowed in SLH. Commission members discussed briefly and Kat asked that all read the ordinance for the March meeting.

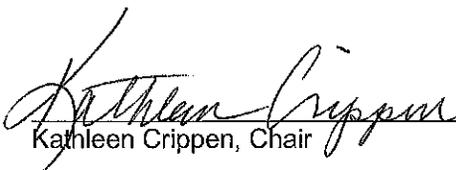
#### 6.) New Business

Kat discussed the formation of both a sub-committee of the Environmental Commission that would allow people to participate and share their knowledge without being full members. She pointed out that people from town who no longer live here, but work here, like our police chief, are interested in helping with some of our projects. She also asked Lisa to have a list of Green Team people put together.

#### 7.) Voice of the Public

John Tangeman, 564 Atlantic Avenue, spoke about the property for sale in the B3 zone along Highway 71, a few lots south of St. Stephen's Green. This is the Bettencourt property; the sellers are asking assessed value of land. He pointed out this is probably the last open space parcel and should be saved; all were in agreement that the Council should be advised to buy it.

8.) Adjournment -- On a motion by Robert Merriken and seconded by Betty Sturdy, all voting aye, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

  
Kathleen Crippen, Chair

March 6, 2017  
Date