

SLH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2019
7:00 P.M.

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

Meeting started at 7:01 PM

In attendance: Co-Chairs Lisa Ball-O'Brien and Nancy Maclearie Hayduk, Sandy Denison, Lucie Dickenson, Derek Noah and Danielle Hughes.

2.) Approval of the Agenda

Motion/second: Motioned by Nancy Maclearie Hayduk and seconded by Sandy Denison

3.) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: June 10, 2019

Motion/second: Motioned by Nancy Maclearie Hayduk and seconded by Sandy Denison

4.) Communications - None

5.) Site Plan Review

Nancy Maclearie Hayduk reported that a recent property was presented to the Planning Board. A property on Old Mill Road was looking to subdivide. There will be 2 slightly oversized lots. There had been concern over the placement of the garages, but the developer agreed to modifications. The plan includes 100% water retention.

6.) Old Business

a.) Sustainable Jersey (Sandy, Lisa)

The June Submission date has passed. It is hoped that a concerted effort will be made by Commission members to complete an application for next year. It is felt we should not have difficulty obtaining at least lowest level of award.

b.) Parks Update (Lisa)

Lisa Ball-O'Brien provided an update on the park. Tree removal work has begun. The number of trees is significant and it is questioned whether it is necessary to remove them all. Nancy Maclearie Hayduk suggested a we need to formally request the arborist reports through an OPRA request. This was supported by members of the public including Councilwoman Sara King, Anna Kuntz and Margaret Melchione.

1.) Committee member

Lisa Ball-O'Brien further reported that the commission needed to nominate a member from the commission to sit on a tree committee being initiated by Mayor O'Brien. Lisa Ball-O'Brien indicated she had heard from Gaylen Nolan that she was not interested in sitting on the Committee. Ms. Ball-O'Brien reported the other members of the committee were expected to be Mayor O'Brien, Borough Administrator John Barrett, DPW Superintendent Joe May, DPW Worker Joseph Spinosa, Councilwoman Sara King and at least 1 other member of the public. It was questioned whether Janine Gillis was going to be sitting on the committee to which Ms. Ball-O'Brien indicated she did not think so. A member of public added that a newspaper article in the Coast Star indicated she would be participating. Ms. Maclearie Hayduk expressed concern that the number of paid employees was disproportionate to members of the public and she felt more members of the public should be added. It was also the understanding of Ms. Ball-O'Brien that Margaret Melchione was not

interested in sitting on the committee, to which Mrs. Melchione, in attendance, corrected stating that she was interested. Ms. Ball-O'Brien offered to pass this information along to Mayor O'Brien. After a brief discussion Nancy Maclearie Hayduk motioned for Lisa Ball-O'Brien to sit on the committee and this was seconded by Lucie Dickenson with all members agreeing. Members of the public voiced their concerns about this nomination. It was suggested by Anna Kuntz that Lisa Ball-O'Brien may not be the best candidate because she is married to the Mayor. Further discussion ensued with additional comments being offered by Margaret Melchione. Ms. Ball-O'Brien offered a re-vote in light of the public comments. Nancy Maclearie Hayduk again nominated Lisa Ball-O'Brien, Sandy Denison seconded, all members in attendance voted aye.

c.) Upcoming Events

- 1.) **Allaire Community Farm** – Sandy Denison reported there are open dates for a program at Allaire community Farm. The suggested theme of "Salad in a Jar" was discussed with possible of August 1st or 8th. Sandy Denison indicated she would discuss with Allaire Community Farm and report back to the Commission. Lucie Dickenson volunteered to help organize.

Other events were discussed more generally. It was suggested that the Environmental Commission should have a table at Heights Day in September and perhaps an upcoming project could be the clean-up of the shack at the baseball field. There had been a significant public response on the Spring Lake Heights Family Facebook Page that the Shack never opened this year due to disrepair and damage caused by an animal infestation.

d.) Natural Resources Inventory (Nancy)

Nancy Maclearie Hayduk reported that she needs to reach out to the county for a topographical inventory.

e.) ROSI Update/Open Space Plan

Nancy Maclearie Hayduk indicated she wanted to connect with Kathleen Crippen regarding the work she had previously done in this regard.

f.) Proposed Ordinances (Nancy)

- 1.) **Tree ordinance** – Nancy Maclearie Hayduk stated she will put together a sample tree ordinance to submit to the Town Council for review. It was felt that with the currently loss of trees throughout town it was important to protect from further loss.
- 2.) **Balloon** – Nancy Maclearie Hayduk indicated she could offer a Balloon ordinance to the council for a vote. This was supported by the Commission members.
- 3.) **Plastic Bag Ban** – The commission discussed the current status of the plastic bag ban ordinance on the state level. Sandy Denison indicated that Atit Patel at 7-11 North is willing to assist the Commission in the process of getting one passed in town. Again, it was suggested a reusable bag sponsored by the Environmental Commission and supported by local businesses was a good idea. Derek Noah suggested there should be a non-exception clause for bio-based, compostable and biodegradable materials.

g.) Green Team Subcommittee – Lisa Ball-O'Brien indicated a presence continues on Facebook.

h.) Silt Fence/Zoning Enforcement – There is a new Code Enforcement Officer hired on an hourly basis. Councilwoman Sara King, in the audience, offered information. The new

hire is Barbara Van Wagner and that she had previously worked in Asbury Park for Code and Zoning enforcement.

7.) New Business - None

8.) Voice of the Public

Collette Hayes of 1000 Allaire Road expressed that she feels heartbroken of the loss of trees at park. She questioned how it was decided and why wasn't she given adequate notice based on her proximity to the park. She questioned about the future plans for the park.

Margaret Melchione of 2 Jeanette Court indicated that the next Council meeting was July 15th. She added that there should be public hearings prior to decisions being made about Joseph Robertson/Allaire Road Park. She reported on the status of her petition that she is circulating to condemn the removal of the trees in the park. She suggested the town should seek grant funding through Monmouth County and other community resources.

Anna Kuntz, 2005 Parkview Terrace. She questioned about the plastic bag ordinance. She asked for further clarification of the suggested reusable bag which was provided. She added that she felt that there has been a recent improvement in code enforcement. With regards to Joseph Robertson/Allaire Road Park she suggested the town should do a plant a tree event at the park. She indicated Brielle has engaged the public in purchasing and the adopting of trees. With regards to the tree removal and clean-up, she questioned who is profiting from the tree removal and the lumber being created by their removal. Finally, she expressed her concern about the future drainage issues at the park.

9.) Adjournment

Motion/second: Nancy Maclearie Hayduk motioned and Lucie Dickenson seconded. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM

Jose R. Quinn
APPROVED
9/9/19