

SLH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING AGENDA  
September 9, 2019  
7:00 P.M.

- 1.) **Call to Order, Flag Salute, and Open Public Meetings Notification** – Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM
  - a.) **Members Present:** Lisa Ball-O'Brien, Nancy Maclearie Hayduk, Gaylen Nolan, Sandy Denison, Derek Noah, Danielle Hughes, Gretchen Maccanico
- 2.) **Approval of the Agenda**  
**Motion/second:** Nancy Maclearie Hayduk – Motion, Gaylen Nolan – Second – All in Favor
- 3.) **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: July 8, 2019**  
**Motion/second:** Gaylen Nolan – Motion, Nancy Maclearie Hayduk – Second – All in Favor
- 4.) **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: August 5, 2019**  
**Motion/second:** Nancy Maclearie Hayduk – Motion, Derek Noah – Second – All in Favor
- 5.) Lisa Ball-O'Brien apologized and indicated that there was an addition to the agenda. She went on to introduce new Environmental Commission Alternate – Gretchen Maccanico. Gretchen provided some brief biographical information.
- 6.) **Communications - None**
- 7.) **Old Business**
  - a.) **Upcoming Events**
    - 1.) **Allaire Community Farm (Sandy Denison)** – Sandy stated the farm is getting busy with school trips. She will continue to look on Thursday dates. She will provide 2 dates to the Environmental Commission via e-mail so that an event could be organized,
  - b.) **Proposed Ordinances (Nancy Maclearie Hayduk)**
    - 1.) **Tree ordinance** – Tree ordinance was discussed. Its purpose and the potential of funding future plantings was discussed. Its focus would be on future development and preventing clear cutting. The focus is to prevent the removal of healthy trees without consequence. Dead, dying and diseased trees would be allowed to be taken down without consequence. Nancy Maclearie Hayduk will write a follow-up letter and attach the ordinance for the Council again. Council has yet to act on this ordinance.
  - c.) **Parks Update (Lisa Ball-O'Brien)**
    - 1.) 183 trees were taken down at Joseph Robertson/Allaire Road park in the Grove area as well as behind the baseball field. The majority of the trees were white pines. The tree removal was paid for through the open space fund with an approximate cost of \$140,000. The intention is to use current and future open space funds to pay for further work on the project. Also, other avenues are being discussed including additional grants, an adopt a tree type program and a possible tree conservation ordinance but nothing has been decided in this regard.
    - 2.) DPW is currently finishing the initial phase at the park. Mulch was placed around the pines left in the grove area. The rest of the area will be covered in topsoil and grass seed will be planted to stabilize the area. I have been told by DPW staff the delay in grass planting has to do with access to a machine called a hydroseeder. The use of a hydroseeder improves the potential

success of the grass planting. DPW will be responsible for watering the area through spigots attached to the gazebo and bathroom facilities buildings.

- 3.) The Mayor's Park/Tree Committee has met on 3 occasions so far with the purpose to discuss the framework for moving forward at the park including potential avenues for future funding, discussion of timeline and resources. The members include: Mayor Tom O'Brien, Borough Administrator John Barrett, DPW Superintendent Joe May, Councilwoman Sara King, Public Member Margaret Melchione and Environment Commission Representative Lisa Ball-O'Brien. Anthony Spinosa, DPW worker came to the first meeting and will be asked to return if needed to answer landscape/planting questions. The Committee is intending on meeting again in the near future to discuss tonight's proceedings.
- 4.) The Shade Tree Commission and the Monmouth County Parks System have been contacted in an effort to obtain support and guidance.

**8.) Voice of the Public - Public Forum on Joseph Robertson/Allaire Road Park** Nancy Maclearie Hayduk welcomed individuals to speak.

Katie Blasco – 2415 Kipling Avenue. Ms. Blasco indicated she has lived in Spring Lake Heights for 35 years. She indicated this was her first meeting – so was not sure if this came up before. She feels the deer population problem in town needs to be addressed. Anything that people plant, the deer eat. She brought it up to the council in April, but nothing has happened yet. She is concerned and feels Fish and Wildlife should get involved. She indicated potential issues: Lyme's Disease, ticks, damage to trees and shrubbery, accidents, increase in deer droppings. She volunteered to be a liaison to address the issue.

Madelyn Curtis – 923 Greenwood Avenue – Mrs. Curtis is a 25-year resident of town. She indicated she loves the place. There are good things in the park including the playgrounds and tennis courts. She would like to see more little garden areas, little meditative areas. She is inspired by Freedom Park. There are nice plantings and fresh flowers. She would like places to just sit and be and to enjoy the beauty of the park. She would like to see flowers, trees, paths to walk, statues and benches. It is a nice opportunity to have a peace garden. She would like the Mayor and council to reconsider the ban on dogs in parks and create an ordinance stating the need to pick up after your dog. She indicated she was willing to clean up after other dogs, if it meant she could use the park.

Glen Bodnar – 123 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Mr. Bodnar quoted a USDA Department of Agriculture Study, 2015. There are 515 Million trees in New Jersey. There are 2 million acres of forested land in New Jersey. He suggested our little park is a drop in the bucket. He suggested 183 trees could be replaced anywhere. He suggested planting 2 trees for every 1 lost as old trees are more environmentally productive than younger trees. He states hydroseeding works well. He is an environmental engineer but also went to college on a sports scholarship. He would like a more active park. There are ways to be financially responsible and make money on the park. He thinks there is a financial income opportunity with fields and clinics. The cost to rent fields is high. It could be a money maker. He suggests a year-round turf field is more pervious than a grass field. He does not see a down side to this plan. Take your time to make the decision, it is a big open spot in a town that doesn't have a lot of open spots. Trees can be put anywhere. He is not anti-tree but would like to see the area kept open for a field.

Deidre McGuinness – 907 Claridge Drive – Ms. McGuinness said she looked forward to looking at the park on her way home from work. She stated the forest made her think she lived in a great town. She thinks there is a scar now that the trees are gone. She stated she understood that the trees had to be removed because the lower branches were trimmed and became top heavy and dangerous. She posed the question: Didn't the tree company know that what they were doing was making the trees top heavy? (Nancy Maclearie Hayduk indicated this problem started 10

Fletcher property? (Gaylen Nolan indicated the town purchased the property from Mrs. Fletcher and the house and building were removed. Several trees were removed as well. It is Open Space. It is now called Veteran's Memorial Park. Walking paths were planned but not completed. It is currently used as a passive recreation area and adjacent to Allaire Road Park.) Mr. Bailey would like a multi-purpose field. It would make money for the town. As a revenue builder, taxes would go down. He thinks we should then plant along the property line. Little league fields are not used as expected and you cannot play soccer on them.

Carol Maccanico – 557 Ocean Road – Mrs. Maccanico would like us to focus on deer resistant plantings and use native trees and bushes. We shouldn't use invasive species. She indicated butterfly bushes and crepe myrtle are invasive. She would like things that birds and wildlife enjoy. A butterfly garden would create interest and protect the monarchs. She suggested using milkweed and other native plants to bring the wildlife back. She will get us a list to help in the planting.

Pete McHugh – 1207 Crosby Road – Mr. McHugh questioned the plan for parking if we create a field. He suggests kids get driven to athletic events, where will the cars park? Side streets would take up the problem.

Jim Healy – 1204 Crosby Road – Mr. Healy would like to refurbish the front field. He stated Pop Warner and soccer used to be played there. There is not much room behind the basketball courts. The front field should be utilized, maintained and improved. He feels we should plant a lot of trees and maintain and improve the front field.

(Nancy Maclearie Hayduk encouraged more people to speak. She indicated at the previous meeting the majority of people wanted trees replanted and passive recreation. She is suggesting maybe we need to figure out how to create a multi-use area within the baseball park area. A person in the audience requested that the Environmental Commission introduce themselves. All members present introduced themselves.)

Brenda Cooney – 71 Maple Drive – Ms. Cooney stated she has not been to these meetings before. She wondered how 183 trees disappeared. She felt the area was peaceful, tranquil. She is upset about how the trees were taken down without a plan. (Gaylen Nolan and Lisa Ball-O'Brien provided some historical information regarding the decision. Nancy Maclearie Hayduk indicated that the town should create a 50-year plan, through an ordinance so that future councils cannot do it again in the future.) Ms. Cooney indicated the area was a treasure. It was a unique forest.

#### 9.) Adjournment

**Motion/second:** Gaylen Nolan – motion, Gretchen Maccanico – second. All in favor – meeting adjourned. 8:04 PM

APPROVED

10/14/19

*Lisa Ball O'Brien*