

SLH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 14, 2019  
7:00 P.M.

- 1.) **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Open Public Meetings Notification**
  - a.) **Members Present:** Lisa Ball-O'Brien, Gaylen Nolan, Derek Noah, Lucie Dickenson, Gretchen Maccanico,
- 2.) **Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion/second:** Derek Noah Motion, Gaylen Nolan Second with the tabling of Allaire Community Farm Event and Tree Ordinance as Sandy Denison and Nancy Maclearie Hayduk not present. – All in Favor
- 3.) **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: September 9, 2019**

**Motion/second:** Gaylen Nolan Motion, Derek Noah Second with the addition of members present during the meeting added to Minutes before submitting to Janine Gillis, Town Clerk – All in Favor
- 4.) **Communications**
  - a.) **ANJEC** – ANJCEC announced an in-service in Middletown on 10/26/2019. Lucie Dickenson indicated a desire to go.
- 5.) **Old Business**
  - a.) **Upcoming Events**
    - 1.) **Allaire Community Farm (Sandy Denison) - Tabled**
  - b.) **Proposed Ordinances (Nancy Maclearie Hayduk) - Tabled**
    - 1.) **Tree ordinance**
  - c.) **Parks Update (Lisa Ball-O'Brien)**
    - 1.) **EC formal recommendations** – Lisa Ball-O'Brien stated that it was suggested that the Commission provide formal recommendations regarding the Joseph E. Robertson Park/Allaire Road Park replanting and future development to the Council. The Commission had an open discussion about issues and concerns we wanted to highlight.
      - i. Issues with drainage, standing water and mosquitos was discussed. Rain gardens can assist in these more wet prone areas.
      - ii. Tree plantings should include both Joseph E. Robertson Park and Veteran's Memorial Park.
      - iii. At least a portion of the park should allow dogs on leashes, with the installation of a feces disposal station.
      - iv. There should be a distinct line of trees separating the grove area from the field.
      - v. Shade Trees should be planted around playground and tennis courts. Both the courts and the playground can be very hot especially during the summer.
      - vi. Completely replant the grove area north of the basketball courts.
      - vii. Improve the soccer field. The question of the front t-ball field utilization was discussed.
      - viii. Trees should be planted in other areas around town. All 183 trees lost should be replanted somewhere in town.
      - ix. It is desired that the areas should look natural not too planned.
    - 2.) **Committee Expansion** – Lisa Ball-O'Brien reported the tree committee is expanding to include additional members. Carol Maccanico (member of public in attendance) was asked to participate. One of the concerns the Committee is

trying to address is utilization of the park. The utilization of the baseball fields is being evaluated.

During the discussion regarding the Committee. Gaylen Nolan, who lives adjacent to the park, expressed concern about the number of cars parked by the baseball field for the Corn Hole League and the amount of trash left the next day. Lisa Ball-O'Brien indicated she would contact the town regarding this issue. The discussion regarding Corn Hole led to a brief discussion regarding a gentleman who reportedly gives private tennis lessons on the courts at the park. It was questioned how he has the ability to do this.

- 3.) **Planting** – The commission discussed how bats would be useful in the park. It was suggested that oaks, beech and ash are good options to promote bats. Feasibility of bat houses was discussed briefly.

**d.) Sustainable Jersey**

- 1.) **Collaboration with the school** – Lisa Ball-O'Brien announced that a meeting is being scheduled with the school to discuss a partnership in our mutual efforts to be certified through Sustainable Jersey. Derek Noah volunteered to participate in those meetings to assist the school.

- e.) **ANJEC Training** – There is an upcoming ANJEC training in Middletown. The Commission was asked to participate if possible. Lisa Ball-O'Brien to add everyone's names to the ANJEC mailing list.

**6.) New Business - None**

**7.) Voice of the Public**

- a.) Carol Maccanico 557 Ocean Road - Carol suggested a tree giveaway for Arbor Day. She suggested all trees that are planted at the park should have fences placed around them to prevent the deer from eating them. She further suggested salvaging trees from construction areas and moving them to other areas with a focus on native species. She added it is easier to move a tree in the winter.
- b.) Karen Burke 606 Shore Road – Karen started by stating she is interested in helping with the Commission. She came to the meeting to express her concern regarding the status of Shore Road. She stated it is all overgrown along Wreck Pond. She stated she has had medical issues related to an allergic reaction to the sticker bushes near the shoreline. She reported the lack of sight lines to the water is dangerous. She told a story of kids on the ice and how the heavy brush blocked the ability to see the kids and that if she had not seen them there could have been a serious issue. She expressed concern that the town is not doing something about the overgrowth.

**8.) Adjournment**

**Motion/second:** Lucie Dickenson motioned, Gaylen Nolan second – all in favor - Meeting adjourned 8:12 PM

APPROVED

*Lisa Ball-O'Brien*  
12/9/19