

SLH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2019
7:00 P.M.

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

- a.) Meeting started at 7:02 PM
- b.) Attendance: Sandy Denison, Derek Noah, Lucie Dickenson, Lisa Ball-O'Brien

2.) Swearing in of New members

Mayor Thomas O'Brien completed the swearing in of Lucie Dickenson and Derek Noah as the newest members of the Commission.

3.) Approval of the Agenda

Natural Resources Inventory was tabled as Nancy Maclearie Hayduk was not present at meeting. Sandy Denison motioned to approve Agenda, Lucie Dickenson Seconded.

4.) Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting April, 8 2019

After making adjustments to April 8, 2019 Minutes, Sandy Denison motioned to approve Minutes, Lucie Dickenson Seconded.

5.) Communications

Lisa Ball-O'Brien indicated the accumulated communications recently provided by Janine Gillis were for the most part no longer timely or e-mails related to Sustainable Jersey.

6.) Site Plan Review - None

7.) Old Business

- a.) **Sustainable Jersey** – Sustainable Jersey as an entity was discussed briefly. Upcoming training later this month was offered if anyone was interested. Sandy Denison plans to attend. Sandy Denison stated we are likely in better shape than we think. It is felt that it will simply require time and energy to review and submit summaries to obtain points. It was discussed we should look at this issue after June, 2019.
- b.) **Parks Update** – Lisa Ball-O'Brien reported on the issue with the trees in Allaire Road Park and the plan to remove upwards of 70 trees, due to their shallow root system and top-heavy nature.
- c.) **Upcoming Events**
 - 1.) **Allaire Community Farm** – First event target date is June 29, 2019. Sandy Denison reported that she spoke with the owners of the farm. They were willing to help sponsor town events on a regular basis. Possible event themes: community garden – starter plants, salad in a jar, vegetable tasting, farming education.
 - 2.) **Macro Invertebrate Event** – Lisa Ball-O'Brien explained that this was Nancy Maclearie Hayduk's idea. It included seining and water exploration at Wreck Pond.
 - 3.) **Woman's Club** – Sandy Denison indicated she attended the event earlier this year. It was discussed as an opportunity for the Environmental Commission to participate in local events. This transitioned into a discussion about making connections with other local entities. Including working with Drop the Beets Aquaponics, the Recreation Department and the School.
 - 4.) **Indoor Event February 2020** – Discussed briefly the desire to work with the School and the Recreation Department regarding this event. No specifics were discussed.

d.) **Proposed Ordinances**

- 1.) **Balloon** – Lisa Ball-O'Brien mentioned the recent state-wide ban on balloon releases making a local ordinance possibly obsolete.
- 2.) **Plastic Bag Ban** – Sandy Denison reported she spoke with Atit Patel, owner of 7-11 North. He reported that he is willing to be a commercial representative regarding this issue. He has a personal interest in reducing the amount of trash. 7-11 North reportedly has already eliminated plastic stirrers in the store. As a group, the idea of designing and distributing a reusable bag was discussed. Derek Noah indicating Styrofoam may be a challenge with restaurants that do take-out and that it is important to get businesses on-board.

- e.) **Green Team Subcommittee** – Discussed the Green Team presence on Facebook possibly changing the name to Spring Lake Heights Environmental Commission.

8.) **New Business – None**

9.) **Voice of the Public**

Prior to Voice of the Public beginning Lisa Ball-O'Brien acknowledged that the new members did get a chance to introduce themselves and offered them the opportunity to do so. Lucie Dickenson moved to Spring Lake Heights in 2000. Lucie has raised 3 children in town. Derek Noah moved into Spring Lake Heights in 2017. He reported on his educational background which includes attending Rutgers and his professional experience in sustainability.

Carol Maccanico, 557 Ocean Road spoke. Carol talked about several issues. She asked about the previous work done by the Environmental Commission at Veteran's Memorial Park/Fletcher Property and the status of the plantings. Lisa Ball-O'Brien indicated DPW transplanted several of the plants when completing the Veteran's Park landscaping. Carol offered the assistance of the Master Gardeners in developing a butterfly garden. She added that there would be a need for weekly weeding and that the garden would be perennials. Lisa Ball-O'Brien stated getting the approval of Joe May, DPW is an important step in this process. Carol also questioned the plan for the removal of trees on Veteran's Memorial Park/Fletcher Property. She suggested non-native species be removed and be replaced with native species. She provided history to the trees currently slated to be removed at Allaire Road Park and stated they were never intended to last this long; they were originally designed to be planted as a cash crop for timber. A Community Garden was discussed and again Master Gardeners would be willing to help. Discussion ensued of getting input from Joe May, DPW and Erik Joseph, Recreation.

Anna Kuntz, 2005 Parkview Terrace. Anna talked about several issues. She expressed concern about the water saturation level at the Veteran's Memorial Park/Fletcher Property. She suggested starting a Garden Club, she felt there would be interest. She supports the idea of a Community Garden. She further stated her concern regarding the silt fence enforcement in town. She could name 3 properties near her home in which silt fences are not being utilized properly. She also expressed frustration with landscape companies not following regulations regarding placement of mulch on individual properties versus public streets. Code Enforcement and the authority to monitor the silt fences was discussed. She added that there is a property on Wall Road in which a hole was created after the demolition of a house and no protective fencing was erected. She questioned the materials used to create the parking lot at Veteran's Memorial Park, wondered why gravel wasn't used instead of blacktop. Derek Noah suggested that a Bioswale could be created to assist with drainage.

- 10.) **Adjournment:** Motion/second: On a motion by Sandy Denison seconded by Lucie Dickenson all voting aye, meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.


6/10/19