

**SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY 02/23/2023
7:00 PM**

1.) Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Open Public Meetings Notification

- a. **Members Present:** Christine Nevin Meloro, Lawrence Tencza, Richard Thumann, Katherine Blasco

2.) Approval of the Agenda

Motion/second: Richard Thumann, Lawrence Tencza, all in favor

3.) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: February 13, 2023

Minutes not available for approval

4.) Communications

Katherine Blasco to follow up with Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk, to determine who is the recipient of e-mail addressed to environmental@springlakehts.com and how the Environmental Commission can gain access. Katherine Blasco also to follow up if there is a drop box for the Environmental Commission in the borough office. Nomination and approval of Katherine Blasco as Secretary of the Environmental Commission. Motion/second Christine Nevin Meloro, Richard Thumann, all in favor.

5.) Old Business

a. **Environmental Commission Officers**

Approval of co-chairs Christine Nevin Meloro and Lawrence Tencza. Motion/second Richard Thumann, Katherine Blasco, all in favor.

b. **Reusable Bags Project**

Re-cap of 2022 idea to have local businesses sponsor the creation of reusable bags to be given out to each family in SLH. The bags would have an SLH Environmental Commission logo and could be stuffed with informational handouts to bring awareness of the Committee to the townspeople. Christine Nevin Meloro mentioned that when attending Spring Lake Environmental Commission meetings, she learned that the Rotary Club of Spring Lake-Brielle sets aside funds for environmental programs that would serve communities in southern Monmouth County and this could potentially be a source of funding as well. There is a Rotary Club Grant Application for Environmental & Community Service Committee. Should the SLH Fall Festival occur again in 2023, it was mentioned that the bags/info sheets could be created and given out at a table, manned by members of the Environmental Commission.

c. **Energy Tips**

At the end of 2022, Christine Nevin Meloro submitted a list of home energy saving tips to be shared with the community. Katherine Blasco suggested looking into whether they could be added to the town calendar distribution; however, due to the timing this was not possible and instead the tips were uploaded to the borough website and can be found at the bottom of the page:

<https://springlakehts.com/environmental-commission/>.

d. **ANJEC Membership Dues**

Dues have not yet been paid by the borough. Christine Nevin Meloro reported that Borough Clerk Janine Gillis no longer possessed the email with the dues information; therefore, Christine contacted ANJEC to resend and Janine confirmed receipt. Christine to follow up if the dues have been paid.

e. **Energy Aggregation**

Christine Nevin Meloro reported on a topic she investigated in 2022 which is the existence of a Community Energy Aggregation (CEA). Red Bank is taking the lead in Monmouth County with several municipalities joining Red Bank's CEA including Bradley Beach and Asbury Park. JCPL would still be in charge of delivery and repair. Local towns have the ability to buy into a CEA. Christine to follow up to determine key details such as the process for joining the aggregate, the price and the length of the commitment. The goal is to present this to the council as a potential renewable energy source for town electricity needs, if feasible.

f. **Planning Board Applications**

Previously, the Environmental Commission expressed interest in receiving a copy of planning board packages to review. Nancy Maclearie Hayduk advised that the town does not receive a copy of the package in enough volume to provide one to the Commission and instead, Commission members can be notified when plans are present in the borough office for viewing. Larry Tencza suggested to inquire if the town can change the requirement of the number of copies applicants must provide be increased so that the Environmental Commission can receive its own copy. Electronic methods are not viable as the file size and layout are not feasible for viewing or personal printing. The Commission would like to receive or be able to view the application packages at the same time they are being distributed to the Planning Board to be able to make suggestions if necessary. Larry Tencza to follow up on the path for the Environmental Commission to be notified and to establish a process for the Commission to be involved. It was also suggested to reach out to borough engineer Louis J. Lobosco to see if he would be willing to attend an Environmental Commission meeting as a member of the public and present on the planning board process. Larry Tencza to follow up.

g. **Allaire Rd. Wall Township Development**

The Commission would like more information on the plans for the Longwood Meadows facility, proposed by Edgewood Properties for 2599 Route 35, where a portion would lie on the border of Wall Township and Spring Lake Heights at the top of Allaire Rd. Richard Thumann suggested that members of the Commission attend a Wall Township Environmental Commission to inquire about the status of these plans. The next Wall Township meeting is March 16, 2023. The Spring Lake Heights Environmental Commission would like to see a copy of the site plan, if available, to assess if there is proper storm water management, grading, tree loss management, etc. that could have impacts to the borough. Christine Nevin Meloro to contact Borough Administrator John Barrett to let him know the Commission is planning to attend the Wall Township Environmental Commission meeting. Katherine Blasco also mentioned there is a concern of further loss of deer habitat as the location to be developed on Allaire Rd. is a wooded area where deer are frequently seen.

6.) New Business

a. **Shade Tree Commission**

Lawrence Tencza inquired if the town has a Shade Tree Commission. The Joseph E. Robertson Tree Committee project to replant that trees and create walkways was

discussed. The Commission discussed whether to revisit the plans of the Tree Committee. Katherine Blasco advised that Councilwoman Sara King was the contact involved with the committee at the time.

b. Ocean Road Park

The wooded area at the end of Shore Rd. and through the back of the Ocean Road Park was discussed as an area in need of clean up. The Commission discussed viewing the site in person to determine if efforts should be focused there.

c. Wreck Pond Cleanup

Christine Meloro discussed having previously participated in a cleanup of Wreck Pond in conjunction with the Sea Girt Conservancy and suggested that this as an activity that the town and Commission could participate in again.

d. Upcoming ANJEC Events

Katherine Blasco advised that there are upcoming relevant ANJEC trainings, namely *2023 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions* on March 21-23 with an advanced in person session in April. Details can be found at <https://anjec.org/conferences-workshops/>.

7.) Voice of the Public

None

8.) Adjournment

Motion/second: Richard Thumann, Katherine Blasco, all in favor

Date approved: Mar 23, 2023

