

SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY 05/25/2023
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, Gaylen Nolan

- 2.) **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion/second: Gaylen Nolan, Richard Thumann, all in favor

- 3.) **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: April 27, 2023**

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

- 4.) **Communications**

N/A

- 5.) **Old Business**
 - a. **ANJEC - Copies of Environmental Commissioners' Handbook**

The copy is being reviewed by the EC, with a focus on areas we could begin to incorporate; for example, establishing and requesting a budget for items such as obtaining copies of planning board applications, printings, giveaways, etc.

 - b. **Black Creek**

EC members toured the creek via park access on 6th Avenue. Water was noted to be very dark, large carp and black algae were present. There is no embankment, only a drop off, and a pipe that feeds into Wreck Pond. From the golf course side water flows under the road. Some garbage was noted on the east roadside, however there is no easy access to clean up. DEP does not monitor the water quality of Black Creek or Wreck Pond, only monitors outflow of Wreck Pond to ocean for bacterial levels. Richard Thumann to contact Shark River Cleanup Coalition to inquire about how to go about having Black Creek tested. Katherine Blasco to reach out to American Littoral society contacts on Wreck Pond water quality.

 - c. **SLH School and Possible Partnership with EC**

A letter from the EC was sent to school board members. Caryn Bennington, teacher, replied and was enthusiastic about collaborating with the EC. Caryn advised the school has been certified Sustainable Jersey since 2021, with Silver rating and Digital Stars recognition. The school has many environmental and gardening initiatives. The EC was invited to visit to learn about the outdoor classroom and ideas for the future. EC suggests following up later in the summer. Alex Iatesta, teacher, and John Spalthoff, Superintendent, were also named as contacts.

 - d. **Grant Request - Allaire Road Park**

It was confirmed that the document reviewed at the prior meeting was the full application. No further information at this time.

- e. **SL Golf Club Planning Board Resolution**
The EC received copy of resolution No. 2017-07, to be reviewed. Was an environmental impact statement submitted? If so, the EC did not receive it.
- f. **National Night Out - SLH EC participation**
The EC will have a table, more to be discussed. Potential items include Mazza games for recycling, energy tips, materials from ANJEC and other environmental websites.
- g. **Reusable Bags Project**
This topic will be removed from EC business going forward.
- h. **Energy Aggregation - Town participation in Red Bank/Asbury Ordinance**
Christine Nevin Meloro will attend the next council meeting to inquire if the town is aware and what our participation status is.
- i. **Planning Board Applications**
There is no new information at this time. Follow up with Nancy Maclerie Hayduk as to how EC can keep apprised of new applications.
- j. **SLH Tax Map**
The EC received a copy of the most recent Tax Map and code descriptions from borough hall to be used in reference with any planning board applications and ERI (environmental resource inventory). Larry Tencza took the map and code descriptions to review.
- k. **Commission Members Status**
There is no update on Sandy Denison's status at this time.
- l. **AmeriCore and EC**
Richard Thumann reached out to our watershed ambassador rep and has not yet receive a response. Richard to follow up again.
- m. **ERI (Environmental Resource Inventory)**
Katherine Blasco to follow up with Nancy Maclearie Hayduk on any items that may already exist. EC to determine where the ERI should be stored. Does SLH have a master plan, if so would ERI be included?

6.) New Business

- a. **Mail from Borough Hall**
The EC received a copy of the Monmouth County Parks System Spring Issue Magazine
- b. **Council involvement with EC**
Would a member of the council be willing to attend EC meetings? Katherine Blasco to reach out to Councilwoman Sara King.

7.) Voice of the Public

None

8.) Adjournment

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

Approved 7/27/23
KLB