

Environmental Commission

February 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Prepared by:
Paul Demarest

Opening Remarks

Acting Chairman Colwell called to order, at 7:41pm, the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Environmental Commission for the Borough of Closter, New Jersey, convening Thursday, February 14, 2019 in the Council Chamber of Borough Hall.

2019 Reorganization

Oaths of Office

- ▶ **Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg** (Reappointed as Alternate #2/
Historic Preservation Commission Liaison);
New 2-Year Term Expires: December 31, 2020;

Selection of Chairperson

Being Mayor John Glidden had yet to appoint the Commission's chairperson for the calendar year 2019, as required by Chapter 16 of the Borough Code, Mr. Colwell served as Acting Chairman for this evening.

Selection of Secretary

A motion was made by Ms. Heymann and seconded by Mr. Isaacson, to nominate Ms. Pergament as Commission Secretary for the calendar year 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

Attendance

Present

Thomas Colwell- Acting Chairman
Steven Isaacson- Full Member
Miriam Lockhart- Full Member
Scott Devlin- Full Member/Council Liaison
Sophie Heymann- Full Member/Planning Board Liaison
Nancy Pergament- Full Member/Shade Tree Commission Liaison
Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg- Alternate #2/Historic Preservation Commission Liaison

Absent

VACANT- Full Member
Ethel Abrams- Alternate #1
Grace Whitney- Associate Member

Mr. Isaacson questioned the Commission membership status of Joseph Lee, who was apparently appointed as a Full Member by the Governing Body late last year but had yet to attend a Commission meeting; Councilman Devlin said Mr. Lee had been a Recreation Commission member with a lackluster attendance record.

Minutes

The Commission postponed a vote to approve the minutes for the January 16, 2019 Meeting until the March 14, 2019 Meeting.

Open to Public

Acting Chairman Colwell opened the meeting to the public for questions and/or comments. No one wished to be heard.

New Business

2019 Mac Bain Farm Land Use Plan

John Mc Caffrey, caretaker and resident of the Mac Bain Farm, introduced himself. Ms. Pergament explained, as per his contract/lease with the Borough, Mr. Mc Caffrey is required to present in-person an annual land use plan to the Commission explaining his intentions for the upcoming season, which allows for both he and the Commission to have a dialogue about the state of the Farm.

Mr. Mc Caffrey said each year he tries to diversify the crops and add in new cultivars. He believed the deer infiltration has mostly ceased due to a 2-year long fencing rehabilitation. He stressed while there was tremendous rainfall throughout 2018, the installation of an irrigation system is still warranted. He further explained that, at a minimum, a permanent trunk line system is desirable which could be tapped into the residence on-site via a 2" water utility main line and with proper valves and backflow preventers, it could be branched out into 3 to 4 strategic points throughout the farmland. Mr. Mc Caffrey also said frost-free hydrants are needed out in the fields so that once the system is operational in the springtime, there would be water sources at the strategic points before the system is diversified down into impact heads that can shoot water out 40' to 50' much like how a golf course is irrigated. Ms. Heymann appreciated his explanation but stressed the urgency in which he must submit a detailed proposal/specifications for both design and materials to allow for the estimate/bid process to be commenced by the Borough Administrator, Arthur Dolson; she noted a prior proposal submitted by Mr. Mc Caffrey a few years ago was rejected outright for its lack of detail. Mr. Mc Caffrey stated a frost-free hydrant with a life span of 4 years could be purchased for \$150.00 at the wholesale plumbing supply store, Ferguson, located in the Borough of Norwood; he said an alternative would be to buy a high-quality hydrant (see trade name *Murdock*) for \$850.00 which he installed for the wellhead on-site and has lasted 18 years so far. He informed that to replace a hydrant is quite involved. He acknowledged the specifications need to be superimposed on a map of the Farm to avoid how the original fence installation on-site unfolded a few years ago. He explained Emerson Fence, Inc. was selected with a \$3,500.00 quote, and it installed 2" pipes at the gates when 3" heavy wall was called and it did not secure the top wire; as a result, he said Dimick Fence Co. was hired to redo the shoddy work for \$7,500.00. Ms. Heymann concurred, saying Mr. Mc Caffrey's irrigation system plan must include where water lines and hydrants, as well as a water fountain/spigot/hose attachment for volunteers' use especially, are to be located. Mr. Mc Caffrey said the Farm is currently operated by well water, and the fields are treated organically with no use of chemicals, noting the irrigation system would be supplied

through the public water utility. Ms. Heymann requested that his specifications include alternate water sources for the system to make use of an overabundance of well water to lower utility bills whenever possible. Mr. Mc Caffrey agreed, saying with a 2" water utility line available, 10 heads can operate at once whereas the well can only supply a maximum of 3 heads in unison. Acting Chairman Colwell reiterated the Governing Body appropriated \$3,800.00 in open space monies to fund the irrigation system project. Ms. Heymann surmised, given the cost involved, 3 quotes will be required but not a public bid. For the 3 to 4 main pits and some frost-free hydrants, Mr. Mc Caffrey estimated the project would cost \$15,000.00. Ms. Heymann and Ms. Bouton-Goldberg were certain the Governing Body had discussed approving \$6,000.00, not \$3,800.00, in funding. Ms. Pergament suggested the specifications be provided and then the funding question be addressed. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg reiterated her preference that Dimick Fence Co. be retained on an annual basis to provide repairs as needed. Acting Chairman Colwell agreed to inquire but thought such a service would require a public bid. He reminded that the Governing Body recently approved \$2,000.00 in open space monies to address fencing repairs. Ms. Heymann revealed last summer she witnessed deer exiting the fields at the extreme western section of the Farm. Mr. Mc Caffrey replied, fawn, not adults, are going under, not over, the fence; he said the issue should be resolved by laying a few shovels of soil in the holes under the fencing, and Mr. Isaacson suggested the Department of Public Works (DPW) lay some boulders to get a more permanent result. Noting it is included in the approved \$3,800.00, Acting Chairman Colwell inquired about electrical conduit required as part of the irrigation system, specifically nearby the kiosk at the front gate. Mr. Mc Caffrey responded an electrical line could be installed in the trench where the water line will be laid as required for the valve control, estimating 600' to 700' of conduit being required; instead, he suggested a larger wire gauge to allow for a shorter run of conduit from the residence to the kiosk via a path along the base of the fence avoiding roots of a nearby Borough-designated landmark tree (beech). Mr. Isaacson said a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)/outlet is needed to avoid having to connect extension cords between the residence and the kiosk during the Harvest Festival. Ms. Pergament realized 3 quotes each would be required for both the electrical and plumbing work involved. Acting Chairman Colwell said the electrical work necessary to operate the heads in the fields would be kept separate from the electrical work for the outlet at the kiosk in terms of budgeting. Mr. Mc Caffrey said a separate 1 ½" conduit to run the electric would be adequate.

With respect to the upcoming shed replacement at Mac Bain Farm, Mr. Mc Caffrey said he collected sawn logs to assist in the construction; he opined the process of converting a raw log to a finished wood product is a valuable learning experience for the youths involved. He said the ground where the new shed will lie is somewhat cleared, noting the Eagle Scout candidate constructing the shed, Tyler Pendleton, has to level out the area with gravel, to be followed by a base, then timbers. Acting Chairman Colwell revealed Mr. Pendleton's father is employed with the Boy Scouts of America and the family resides on the Alpine Scout Camp located off Route 9W, however, his father was recently promoted and they are relocating to Texas on March 16th. Given the time constraint, he said Mr. Pendleton assured that he and his father were committed to finishing the project and would return to Closter for 1 week at some point later in the year. He said he submitted a list of materials for the shed to Mr. Dolson, noting Dykes Lumber, Inc. (23 Naugle Street) would be the supplier. He stated quotes are required for all of the material except timber; he noted the gravel supply is being addressed by the Borough. Mr. Mc Caffrey said it would take 1 day to saw all the wood needed for the walls and roof of the 10'x10' shed. Acting Chairman Colwell informed that the design calls for a plywood roof with shingles. Mr. Isaacson suggested a photographic journal be kept during construction to document that the shed is not a prefabricated kit.

While volunteering at the Farm this past July, Ms. Pergament noticed the weed maintenance required given the extreme amount of rainfall last year was overwhelming. Mr. Mc Caffrey agreed, saying his goal has been to address the weeding without use of weed killer such as

Roundup. He said he recently tilled the fields for the 1st time this year. He suggested the best approach for curtailing the weed maintenance would be to acquire a plastic mulch layer, which is an attachment for a tractor costing roughly \$10,000.00. He explained after cultivating the fields with a tiller so the soil is fluffy resembling the consistency of coffee grinds, the tiller is replaced with the layer which has an adjustable molding board ranging from 30" to 5'. He continued saying behind the layer are a few plows that pull soil into more of a mound having some pitch and sides. He said a knife system then makes small slits into a roll of plastic before it is laid taut over the mound around the irrigation lines with a wheel system and tucked under the mound by hand. Lastly, he said miniature sweepers move soil over the plastic. He said a roll can cover 500' but emphasized the quality of the plastic is vital in how well the weeds are kept down by keeping the soil temperature higher to provide more root development, noting any fruit that may lay atop the plastic would not rot like it would on soil. Mr. Mc Caffrey said the plastic, based on the grade/quality, can lay at least 2 to 3 years without being touched. He said other than some use of the string trimmer along the rows, the plastic mulch layer would save tremendous amounts of time and labor. For example, he said if he were planting tomatoes or peppers requiring spacing of 18" to 36", holes would be poked into the laid plastic for each plant to be exposed and at the end of the row, the irrigation system's valve to shut that section on and off would be exposed as well. He noted once the system is pressurized, a row could be soaked for 1 hour, and the plastic retains moisture within the crop so it does not wick off. He informed that another benefit to the plastic mulch layer is that multiple-cropping is possible without fear of weed competition. Ms. Heymann interjected, saying such a project is not budgeted for in 2019 but hoped an open space grant could make the installation a reality. Mr. Mc Caffrey said the plastic method originated with southern vegetable farmers and is slowly being practiced in the north part of the United States in conjunction with organic farming. Mr. Isaacson suggested that until the needed machinery is approved, Mr. Mc Caffrey should experiment by manually laying down the plastic on a short row and see what the results are. Mr. Mc Caffrey confirmed that it is best to lay down the plastic after tilling but before planting.

Ms. Pergament said the Commission was contemplating to establish a small area at Mac Bain Farm as a tree nursery to provide a constant tree supply for Borough planting. Mr. Mc Caffrey suggested the pot-to-pot approach whereby a 30-gallon pot would be buried in the ground with a seedling being planted into a sleeve until it is nourished, then popped out when harvested; he believed such would be better than burrowing root balls. Ms. Heymann said once a tree grows to 6' high, deer will not be of concern. She felt the nursery could be situated in the rear of the Farm where mulch piles are. She considered it an educational tool while also potentially saving the Borough the expense of buying trees; Mr. Mc Caffrey agreed, saying trees having caliper measurements of 2" or more are quite costly. Councilman Devlin reminded that he recently ordered 125 seedlings from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Commission (NJDEP) which should arrive by early April; he noted they are separate from the free seedlings provided at the Northern Valley Earth Fair; he informed the cost is \$25.00 for 50 seedlings. Ms. Heymann said planting the seedlings in the right medium behind solid fencing should result in a flourishing nursery; she believed deciduous trees are preferable. Acting Chairman Colwell stated the Borough of Haworth keeps a tree nursery on Valley Road; he mentioned it would be quite expensive to transplant 6' to 10' high trees. Mr. Mc Caffrey mentioned that aside from plastic rolls, there are also fiber bags that trees can grow in and the fiber prevents roots from expanding outside the sack. He estimated the Farm could easily accommodate a 100-tree nursery. To highlight the potential cost savings from a nursery with staggered plantings, Ms. Lockhart said the Shade Tree Commission would be spending about \$1,000.00 for 2 trees to plant in celebration of Arbor Day this year. Ms. Heymann suggested the Borough request that the tree seedlings provided by the NJDEP be a mixture of coniferous (evergreen) and deciduous species. She noted the Nature Center is in need of maples, especially red; Ms. Pergament concurred, noting the Center's swampy conditions are ideal for the species to thrive. Mr. Mc Caffrey reminded that there used to be a plethora of sugar maples near High Street but

once the Borough began using salt to treat thoroughfares during the winter, they died off being they are not salt-tolerant; he stressed said it would be a prime species to reintroduce in the Borough's parkland. Councilman Devlin promised to email the NJDEP's catalogue showing types of seedlings available to the Commission. He suggested secondary fencing (stakes/vinyl) be placed around the perimeter of the nursery. Mr. Mc Caffrey said the sole threat to the trees would be mice and rabbits girdling at their base. He confirmed that a new planting of 100 tree seedlings could be handled each year by the Farm. He said each year's batch of seedlings should grow to 6' or 7' high whips with approximately 3' of space between each. He stressed the goal is not 3" caliper trees, which would require a machine to remove, but rather 1 1/2" whereby the tree can still be removed in its sack. Ms. Lockhart questioned if the Shade Tree Commission (STC) could utilize trees harvested from a nursery overseen by the Environmental Commission; Councilman Devlin felt the 2 bodies have different viewpoints on how trees should be planted, pruned or removed. Ms. Heymann said STC plantings are considerably larger (3" caliper measurements) than what would be grown in the Commission's nursery.

Until a potential plastic mulch layer comes to fruition, Acting Chairman Colwell said if Mr. Mc Caffrey plants less and makes wider rows in 2019, using a string trimmer should have better results with the weeds in the meantime. Ms. Lockhart noted that the high school senior student service program, which normally offers several volunteers to the Farm, was not available to the Commission last year nor would it be this year. Mr. Mc Caffrey expressed disappointment because for a decade prior, student volunteers had been helpful in mulching and planting at the Farm. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg noted by planting more trees and flowers this year, the farmhands can get a better handle of weeding. Mr. Mc Caffrey explained the current method of weed control is to use 2 cultivators between the rows spaced 30" apart in 1 to 2 week intervals. He stressed the reduction in the foreign-born workforce also played a part in the lack of weeding last year. Ms. Lockhart reported that visitors have noticed a major decline in the Farm's upkeep over the past few years. Mr. Mc Caffrey reiterated if he opted to use chemicals rather than an organic approach, there would be no weed problem. The Commission agreed chemicals are not to be used on-site for weed control. Mr. Mc Caffrey said heavier mulching between the rows would assist in lessening the weeds as well. Ms. Lockhart said public feedback is that the Farm looks quite good, culminating with a lush July appearance but by August, the weeds are rampant for the remainder of the season. Mr. Mc Caffrey pondered if the Commission could budget for the hiring of 2 full-time laborers to perform various menial tasks throughout the season such as the Recreation Commission does each year; he said their age, in terms of being left on-site unsupervised, should be asked of the Borough's Risk Management Consultant. Ms. Lockhart said the discontinued student volunteer program required adult supervision at all times; Mr. Mc Caffrey advised his availability to supervise any new hires would be extremely limited. Ms. Lockhart said adult Farm volunteers could not be expected to commit to supervising the students being they are not Borough-paid employees. Acting Chairman Colwell pondered if teenagers could be paid \$10.00 per hour and supervised during their work shifts by their own parents; Ms. Pergament said such could be an ideal summer job for college students. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg said there was very little staking of tomatoes last year, stressing quality of a crop is more important than its quantity; she also said late crops like lettuce were non-existent in 2018. Mr. Mc Caffrey blamed such on the abundance of rainfall, pointing out more damage than benefit is done to a crop when tilling wet soil because it changes into a concrete-like consistency. Ms. Heymann opined he grew the lettuce too long last year instead of replacing it, noting its taste becomes too bitter if too old. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg stressed there should be a break in the configuration of the large round crop on-site to prevent visitors from trampling over it; she emphasized that pumpkins should no longer be grown on-site. Acting Chairman Colwell said if there are less vegetables planted this season, the cost saved could go towards new berry bushes; Ms. Bouton-Goldberg reminded that the Commission raised \$400.00 in donations from a prior Harvest Festival, which was never spent. Councilman Devlin cautioned there is a lot of maintenance required with berry growing such as netting to prevent birds from feeding off them.

Mr. Mc Caffrey said to grow quality fruit, pruning and spraying are necessary. Ms. Heymann reported there are 2 to 3 apple trees in the rear orchard that need to be replaced.

With respect to Mr. Mc Caffrey's lease obligation with the Borough to provide a minimum of \$25,000.00 in farm-related labor annually in exchange for residing on the Farm rent-free, Ms. Pergament said there are various ways to account for his services. He explained he documents his hours of labor; for example, he said to prune the apple trees with clean-up would take 15 to 20 hours. He said receipts for tilling the fields, seeding, fertilizing and planting crops are documented in a quarterly financial report to the Commission; he said his insurance coverage is updated each year, though he stated he is no longer covered to prune/remove trees due to the hazards involved. He said he had yet to be reimbursed for \$1,500.00 in damage to his lawn furniture cause by a fallen apple tree; Councilman Devlin suggested he resubmit the invoice he filed last year. He further noted that despite obtaining 3 quotes for roof repairs many months ago, the Borough did not appropriate the monies, resulting in him doing the rehabilitation himself. Ms. Heymann stressed that Mr. Dolson wants the hazardous rotting gutters and pillars of the house's side porch, which is visible to Farm visitors, to be fixed immediately; Mr. Mc Caffrey replied the cost, including the stone base required, would be approximately \$3,500.00, noting the gutters and pillars are not addressed in his contract with the Borough. He said the residence also needs storm windows; Ms. Heymann commented the residence on-site is not part of the Commission's budget. Mr. Isaacson reminded that the Governing Body recently decided to include the land of Mac Bain Farm as part of the Borough's Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI), thereby, protecting the Farm as a park and from future development while allowing the Commission to continue using the land as a working farm. As for the residence on-site, he explained the Governing Body designated the house itself as a Historic Landmark as requested by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), which initially requested all land, buildings and appurtenances on-site to be designated as such. He said the designation translates to any alteration to the house's exterior facing Hickory Lane requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness to be issued by the HPC beforehand. Mr. Mc Caffrey said he was pleased about the designation, noting a reason for his purchase of a sawmill is to replace the planking and beams (no plywood) of his dairy farm in western New Jersey built in 1820 using rough cut timber only.

Ms. Pergament said motor vehicle parking/storage at the Farm has been of concern especially during the hours when Farm patrons are present. Councilman Devlin said the driveway is regularly blocked and a boat is not being stored appropriately. Mr. Mc Caffrey agreed, saying his children and their friends can be inconsiderate how they park their vehicles on-site. Acting Chairman Colwell said being the Farm is a Borough park, it is technically open to the public from dawn to dusk every day of the calendar year (separate from Farm picking hours). Mr. Mc Caffrey said the busiest part of the year for Farm picking is from spring to the Harvest Festival in October. Councilman Devlin said the contract reads the Borough should allow access to the public from Wednesdays through Sundays during daylight hours or as determined by the Commission after consulting with the tenant. Ms. Heymann said the Farm is open even when crops are not growing mostly because there are trails on-site; she noted last year the operating hours were reduced because of the rainfall amounts and to lessen the burden on Farm volunteers. Mr. Mc Caffrey warned if the front gate is not locked during the growing season and no monitors are present, the public will ignore picking rules and empty premature crops by taking all the female species of flowers, zucchini, yellow squash, etc. He said people also lie that they are Borough residents to gain picking privileges. Ms. Pergament suggested a registration process to curtail abuse of the Farm; Mr. Isaacson said the issue of enforcement would still remain. Ms. Pergament said the visitors need to have their own time and effort invested into the Farm to reap its rewards. Councilman Devlin said pets are not allowed on the Farm. Ms. Lockhart asked if the front gate is left open, deer could become accustomed to

entering through it. Ms. Heymann said when the Farm is open to the public, the front gate should be closed but not locked.

The Commission requested that Mr. Mc Caffrey submit all of the aforementioned proposals in writing no later than its March 14, 2019 meeting.

Grant Availability

Ms. Heymann said the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) is offering a \$1,500.00 grant for projects which advance the local open space stewardship and help raise the profile of the Commission and community through publicity and public participation and collaboration with local groups. Ms. Lockhart noted the deadline to file an application is April 15th, and Ms. Bouton-Goldberg mentioned the grant requires 80 hours of participation. Ms. Heymann continued saying eligible expenses are materials, speakers, professional services, printing, mailing and advertising; she noted associated labor is not applicable. She believed the annual Borough-wide cleaning effort would be worthy of the grant, but Ms. Lockhart reminded the grant's deadline is after this year's date of the cleanup, but noted the grant could be used towards 2020's cleanup. Acting Chairman Colwell said the Harvest Festival could be an ideal project as well. Ms. Pergament said the Commission needs to raise awareness of the Mac Bain Farm's existence, especially being it is often the main topic of discussion on most of its agendas. Ms. Heymann said the Borough's website and other social media are vital in promoting the Farm. Acting Chairman Colwell believed a registration process for Farm visitors, such as a sign-in book and key privileges, obligates them to be responsible with the farmland and its appurtenances; he said registering could come with receiving a packet containing literature, rules and other means of educating the public. Ms. Lockhart emphasized Farm volunteers and Mr. Mc Caffrey are frustrated with the poor behavior of certain visitors. Councilman Devlin suggested the same process implemented by the DPW for Borough residents' use of its recycling center be used for Farm visitors, noting registration is free. Ms. Lockhart opined more than registration number should be issued, possibly a physical card to enhance security; she said a driver's license could be presented before entry. Ms. Heymann believed implementation of a registration process for Farm visitors should be the basis on which to apply for the ANJEC grant.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Heymann reiterated her displeasure that only \$3,800.00, not \$6,000.00 in open space monies was appropriated by the Governing Body for a new irrigation system at Mac Bain Farm; Councilman Devlin pointed out that \$6,000.00 was approved for trail maintenance. Acting Chairman Colwell promised to inquire if the 2 amounts were switched in error. He said the cost of materials list for the shed replacement project at the Farm was put out to public bid by Mr. Dolson.

Acting Chairman Colwell said he recently updated the Commission's Google Doc/Google Sheet, a web-based program it has been utilizing to organize and be more efficient, with various budgetary information. He explained that several subaccounts were overdrawn last year depending on how the invoices were submitted to the Borough, though the overall 2018 operating budget was not spent in its entirety. The Commission made the following recommendations for each subaccount of its 2019 operating budget:

- 1.) *Subscriptions & Books*- \$150.00 (unchanged from 2018); Acting Chairman Colwell said the sole expenditure last year was for \$25.00 paid to the New Jersey State Legislature. Being employed with the Legislature, Councilman Devlin questioned the charge being it does not receive direct payments.

- 2.) *Meetings & Dues*- \$500.00 (unchanged from 2018);
- 3.) *Miscellaneous*- \$300.00 (unchanged from 2018); Acting Chairman Colwell said signage purchases for both the trail system and the Borough-wide cleaning effort caused the subaccount to be overdrawn last year.
- 4.) *Secretarial Support*- \$1,440.00 (unchanged from 2018); Acting Chairman Colwell said the reason for the subaccount being overdrawn last year was because Mr. Demarest's December 2017 voucher for minutes preparation was paid in 2018.
- 5.) *Mac Bain Farm*- \$1,000.00 (\$200.00 decrease from 2018); Acting Chairman Colwell felt despite expenses for a New Jersey Forest Fire Service permit, shovels, hoses, keys, wires and other small items last year, the line item could be reduced for 2019 given the reason for the subaccount being overdrawn was due to the pergola project, which is now complete.
- 6.) *Fall Festival*- \$1,050.00 (\$200.00 increase from 2018); Acting Chairman Colwell said last year there was insufficient funds for postcard advertising and noted there would likely be an increase in the cost of pumpkins this year. He reiterated that even if the purchase cost involved is minimal, the Borough requires 3 quotes to be obtained. Ms. Heymann believed the local school system could provide substantial advertising for the Festival in lieu of paying for postcards traditionally provided by Mr. Isaacson through his printing company. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg expressed frustration that the purchase of small items, such as scissors, must be from an establishment that does not charge sales tax. While agreeing, Acting Chairman Colwell said that as he recently experienced with the shed replacement project, the Borough will see a purchase to fruition so long as proper paperwork is filed in advance.
- 7.) *Earth Day*- \$250.00 (unchanged from 2018); Acting Chairman Colwell noted that the Northern Valley Earth Fair is no longer a government entity but rather registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization operated by volunteers and is now tax-exempt; as such, he did not know how that would affect the \$250.00 payment each participating municipality had been required to pay towards the event each year.
- 8.) *Clean Up Day*- \$300.00 (unchanged from 2018); Ms. Heymann said the main costs of the Borough-wide cleaning effort are publicity and refreshments, noting tools are provided by Bergen County, all of which except for the gloves, plastic bags and tissues must be returned.
- 9.) *Citizen Camp*- \$300.00 (unchanged from 2018); the Commission did not know what this subaccount was established for.

A motion was made by Ms. Lockhart and seconded by Councilman Devlin, to recommend the aforementioned amounts for the Commission's 2019 operating budget comprised of 9 subaccounts to Mr. Dolson with the following amendment: transfer both \$150.00 in *Subscriptions & Books* subaccount and \$300.00 in *Citizen Camp* to *Miscellaneous* subaccount which shall increase from \$300.00 to \$750.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Nature Center

Acting Chairman Colwell said the Nature Center recently had a meeting presented by its Director/Naturalist, Marc Gussen, regarding its request for \$50,000.00 in open spacing funds to install deer fencing on-site. Councilman Devlin revealed that the Governing Body recently approved a public bid for the purchase of supplies relating to the fencing without sanctioning the \$50,000.00. He said the Borough will select the lowest bidder for the materials, noting much of the labor will be provided by volunteers.

After being patient for a response to her request, Ms. Bouton-Goldberg informed that the Center suggested holding a forum on Lyme disease involving a panel discussion with a doctor, scientist, etc., on either March 21st or 28th, but she doubted participants could be contacted in time. She noted confirmed speakers thus far are Mr. Nussen, representative(s) from Global Lyme Alliance and possibly a sufferer of the disease. Ms. Lockhart suggested Dr. Michele D'Antonio, a pediatrician based in the Borough of Haworth, be contacted to participate due to her knowledge of the disease.

Sivert Hagen and Brenda Cummings Commemoration

A motion was made by Councilman Devlin and seconded by Ms. Pergament, to approve a draft of a dedication for both Ms. Cummings and the late Mr. Hagen for their service to the Commission and other environmental endeavors, which will be forwarded to Mr. Dolson for final presentation on a plaque. The motion passed unanimously.

2019 Borough-Wide Cleanup Effort

Ms. Pergament said she, Ms. Lockhart and Ms. Whitney, as the organizing committee, recommended the Effort be held on April 6th being that date is prior to the local school system's spring break; she said the rain date would be April 13th. She promised to contact the Nature Center and Improvement Commission to co-sponsor the event. Ms. Heymann suggested the Nature Center and the Harold Hess Lustron House (421 Durie Avenue) serve as the eastern and western gathering points for volunteers being they are on opposite ends of the Borough and close to many open space areas; Ms. Pergament concurred. Ms. Heymann reminded that the Commission's tent/canopy is stored in Borough Hall and can be used if there is inclement weather. Councilman Devlin said last year there was no means by which to collect trash from waterways. Ms. Lockhart suggested waders be obtained so volunteers can enter waterways and remain dry, noting such an exercise would make the event more enjoyable especially for children; Ms. Bouton-Goldberg agreed, saying nets would be beneficial as well. Ms. Heymann felt the Commission should dedicate more of its agenda to discussing the upkeep of the Borough's waterways, which are neglected partly because the NJDEP has strict regulations on access.

A motion was made by Ms. Pergament and seconded by Councilman Devlin, to approve April 6, 2019 as the date for the 2019 Borough-Wide Cleaning Effort with April 13th as a rain date. The motion passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

n/a;

Plan Review

Planning Board

376 ANDERSON AVENUE: This is an application for Major Soil Movement Approval involving the construction of a new 1-family house. The Commission had no comments.

20 MICHAELS LANE: This is an application for Major Soil Movement Approval involving the modifications to an existing substation. The Commission had no comments.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

597 PIERMONT ROAD: This is an application for Final Site Plan Approval involving the construction of a new building (child care/daycare center). The Commission had no comments.

Adjournment

Councilman Devlin said he would replace former Chairman Paul MacDonald as the Commission's contact with the Sustainable Jersey program. He noted the local Boy Scout troop's annual beefsteak would be held on March 2nd.

There being no further items to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Pergament and seconded by Ms. Heymann, to adjourn the meeting at 10:13pm. The motion passed unanimously.

