

Environmental Commission

Thursday, June 10, 2021

Regular Meeting

Minutes

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CALL TO ORDER

- 7:34pm

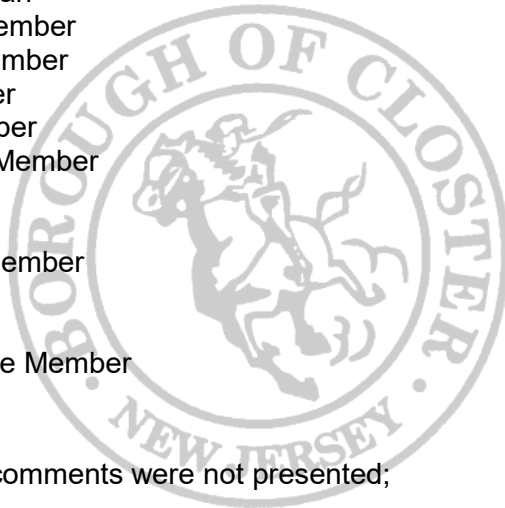
ATTENDANCE

Present

- Thomas Colwell- Chairman
- Steven Isaacson- Full Member
- Miriam Lockhart- Full Member
- Scott Devlin- Full Member
- Krishna Rege- Full Member
- Mordechai Feibish- Full Member

Absent

- Sophie Heymann- Full Member
- VACANT- Alternate #1
- VACANT- Alternate #2
- Sophia Suarez- Associate Member



OPEN TO PUBLIC

- public questions and/or comments were not presented;

MINUTES

- **VOTE**- motion was made by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Ms. Lockhart to approve minutes for May 13, 2021 Meeting with 6 noted amendments (motion passed unanimously);

TREASURER'S REPORT

- 2021 *TEMPORARY* Operating Budget Subaccount Balances: Subscriptions/Books (\$0.00); Meetings/Dues (\$0.00); Miscellaneous (\$1,020.00); Secretarial Support (\$0.00); Mac Bain Farm (\$0.00); Harvest/Fall Festival (\$0.00); Earth Day (\$0.00); Cleanup Day (\$0.00);
- birdhouses can be purchased for activity/contest related to inaugural event being held at Buzzoni Farm Park in light of Mac Bain Farm no longer falling under auspices of Commission and future of annual Harvest Festival being in question;
- increase to municipal departments' temporary budgets should be considered by Governing Body in late June with it slated to adopt municipal budget in late July;
- **ACTION**- Councilman Devlin will seek Governing Body approval for additional \$1,000.00 in temporary budget funding for Commission;

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive

(*Leader*- Colwell; w/ Devlin)

- email exchanges should not involve more than 3 Commission voting members (quorum) to avoid discussion being in violation of New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act;
- Governing Body recently adopted Resolution to restore intent of Chapter 16 of Borough Code with respect to staggering terms of Commission members by modifying expiration date of terms for 2 Commission members yet to be determined by Mayor John Glidden;
- Ordinance Committee intends to draft amendments to Chapter 134 of Borough Code to curtail excessive noise caused by construction, with inclusion and emphasis on landscaping contractors, in early July with possible introduction and adoption of ordinance(s) by Governing Body in late July and September respectively (Building Department and Police Department will be pivotal in success of ordinance changes by informing contractors);
- Commission thanked Chairman Colwell for his volunteerism ahead of his resignation from Commission effective July 1, 2021;
- **ACTION**- Councilman Devlin will confirm which Borough-owned parcels are classified as active or passive parks to revisit which would be best overseen by Environmental Commission, Recreation Commission or Improvement Commission (Ms. Lockhart will provide 1-year old unofficial list of such in her possession for guidance);
- **ACTION**- Councilman Devlin will forward said Resolution adopted by Governing Body regarding staggered terms to Commission;

Events

(*Leader*- Rege; w/ Isaacson & Lockhart)

- Governing Body approved dates (July 10th with rain date of July 11th) for inaugural event being held at Buzzoni Farm Park which will include trail dedication in honor of late former Commission member (Arthur Goldberg) and will serve more as series of educational sessions while introducing public to underappreciated open space;
- **ACTION**- Mr. Isaacson will obtain 3 quotes for purchase of marker pens, stickers, birdhouses, etc. in preparation for inaugural event being held at Buzzoni Farm Park;
- **VOTE**- motion was made by Councilman Devlin and seconded by Ms. Lockhart to name trail located in Buzzoni Farm Park "Arthur Goldberg Trail" in honor of late former Commission member (motion passed unanimously);
- **VOTE**- motion was made by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Ms. Lockhart to relocate 2 concrete tables from site of defunct Closter Swim Club (Blanch Avenue) to Buzzoni Farm Park as well as accept offer from local resident (William Barbieri) to power wash them free of charge (motion passed unanimously);
- **VOTE**- motion was made by Chairman Colwell and seconded by Ms. Lockhart to request Department of Public Works to create 2 ground signs (1 each located at Buzzoni Farm Park and Ruckman Park) to identify Arthur Goldberg Trail with finalized wording to be determined (motion passed unanimously);
- **VOTE**- motion was made by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Chairman Colwell to allocate \$200.00 to purchase marker pens, stickers, birdhouses, etc. in preparation for inaugural event being held at Buzzoni Farm Park (motion passed unanimously);

Trails & Passive Parks

(*Leader*- Isaacson; w/ Heymann & Rege)

- project for Eagle Scout candidates to rehabilitate pond located at Buzzoni Farm Park is under consideration;
- no Haring Street residents volunteered to serve on committee organized by Mayor John Glidden to address said residents' concerns about unsightly/unsafe conditions at Schauble Park caused by lack of Borough upkeep and illegal motocross activities (residents are slated to further discuss concerns with Governing Body);

Education/Advocacy & Publicity

(*Leader*- Heymann; w/ Lockhart)

- Commission should provide topics of discussion on regular basis to have included in Mayor Glidden's monthly newsletter as means to advocate for environment (potential topics include forthcoming New Jersey ban on plastic bags, electric vehicle charging stations, etc.);

- **ACTION**- Ms. Lockhart, with assistance former Commission member Ethel Abrams, will formulate topics of discussion to be gathered from Commission members for inclusion in next issue of Mayor Glidden's monthly newsletter (submission deadline is June 25th);

Plan Review, Environmental Notification & Contaminated Sites

(*Leader*- Feibish; w/ Colwell & Isaacson)

- request to bifurcate application relating to 231 & 239 Herbert Avenue whereby several existing residential and non-residential buildings would be redeveloped into congregate care facility will be presented to Zoning Board of Adjustment (request would entail Board deciding on Use Variance before and separate from Site Plan Review as means to expedite hearing process and prevent needless soft costs incurred by applicant);

Mac Bain Farm

(*Leader*- Heymann; w/ non-Commission members only)

- deer are running rampant throughout Farm in light of unaddressed fencing deficiencies;
- crop planting by caretaker and resident of Farm (John Mc Caffrey) has been slow as of late due to persistent rainstorms which may result in delay of opening to public this year by few weeks;

NEW BUSINESS

- Borough should ensure proper inspections are being conducted with respect to construction sites where deeper excavations are becoming more frequent which can impact aquifers especially if underground oil tanks are present;

LIAISON REPORTS

Governing Body

(*Liaison*- Devlin)

- Commission congratulated Councilman Devlin on Assemblyman Gordon Johnson's Democratic Primary win for State Senator whom he serves as Chief of Staff;

Planning Board

(*Liaison*- Heymann)

- report was not given;

Shade Tree Commission

(*Liaison*- Lockhart)

- **ACTION**- Chairman Colwell will forward contact information of sign vendor (Wayne Sapper/King Displays Co.) previously hired by Environmental Commission to Ms. Lockhart for Shade Tree Commission to inquire about purchasing banners as well as tablecloths for display at public events;

Historic Preservation Commission

(*Liaison*- VACANT)

- report was not given;

ADJOURNMENT

- 8:21pm