

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION & GREEN TEAM MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2023

Members Present

D. Dittrick
D. Fashano
J. Hendricks
A. Kraynak
C. Matlon
C. Mattessich
N. Mian

Liaison

J. Ferramosca- Present

Members Absent

D. Chenong
P. Glawe – excused.
D. Wilson

Guest

J. O'Neill – Whippany River Watershed Action Committee

Member Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:05pm according to the Open Publics Meeting Act.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Reviewed meeting minutes January 9, 2023. Member Matlon asked to change the meeting minutes to say for the Brickyard Field it's for the improvement for a turf field Member Matlon thought it was to install a turf field Liaison Ferramosca said there going to convert it from a grass field to a turf field. Member Matlon said its to make turf fields. Member Hendricks made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the changes. Member Fashano seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Correspondence

- None.

Certified Mail

- None.

Old Business

- 2023 Shred Day Event - Member Fashano said it's going to be \$800.00, and he said he hasn't checked into an alternate company. Member Fashano said it was

figured out we were going to do it once a year. Member Fashano said we are also looking into an electronic recycling event.

- Whippany River Clean Up and Earth Day Event – J. O’Neill gave an update for the upcoming Whippany River Clean Up and Earth Day Event. J. O’Neill said they did a walk thru at Central Park. J. O’Neill said people that attended the walk thru were R. Francioli, Liaison Ferramosca, S. Snow, D. Dittrick, B. Foran, three members from the Fire Department and the Fire Chief, and B. De Palma. J. O’Neill said that Central Park wasn’t in bad shape clean up wise. J. O’Neill said there wasn’t enough there for 100 people. Liaison Ferramosca said that they walked in the area by the Woodmont Condos and by the Cedar Knolls/Rt. 287 bridge. J. O’Neill said that Liaison Ferramosca spotted something distressing. Liaison Ferramosca said as we were doing our assessment on Patriot’s Path, we were half way down the path and there is a giant dip and the path its going to be repaired a work order is out for that as we went from the Woodmont property walking towards the industrial park we got to the dip and we looked around at the dip and I looked across the river to the riverbank on the 287side and there is an oil slick. Liaison Ferramosca said the oil slick must have been about 15 x 20 needless to say that was rather alarming and disturbing we immediately got in touch with our state representatives because getting through to the DEP and DOT is very difficult because many of them are still working from home subsequently I had a meeting with them last Friday with Senator Pennachio’s office and they are coming out and they’re going to do an inspection Liaison Ferramosca said its not just inspecting the state of the river at that point you got to inspect the discharge pipes. Liaison Ferramosca said there is a huge drainage pipe nearby that runs underneath Rt. 287 that allows the water when the stormwater from the highway drain into the river. Liaison Ferramosca said I said to them that drainage pipe we need to put filtration in these drainage pipes before they feed the river because otherwise what are we doing we are just passing it along the problem. Member Fashano asked is this an accumulation? Liaison Ferramosca said its an accumulation of oil very sad. Member Matlon said you can always call HAZMAT to get the emergency response they have a HAZMAT Unit. Member Matlon said they could put booms in the river and all that kind of stuff to keep it there. Liaison Ferramosca we should have done that. Member Matlon because it’s an emergency response is what it really is. Liaison Ferramosca showed the commission a photo of it on his phone. Liaison Ferramosca said he also has photos of the drainage pipe. Liaison Ferramosca said to DOT I know this is your responsibility, but we take this very seriously in Hanover Township because that river was just about dead because of Dr. George Van Orden, WRWAC, Hanover Township really, really took on the responsibility for the clean-up of that river and we don’t want to see this going backwards again especially by DOT well you know maybe somebody spilled motor oil. Liaison Ferramosca said I don’t know how it got there but all I know is since you have that one drainage pipe, I think you should check all of your drainage pipes. Liaison Ferramosca said you should have filtration systems if you’re dumping into a river because there is no riparian buffer here there is not

enough room for that for the land to cleanse what you are polluting. Liaison Ferramosca there going to have an inspection come out I'll let Member Dittrick know when this occurs. Liaison Ferramosca said it was very disheartening to see this so that's where we are with it. Liaison Ferramosca said we are not going to let it go we obviously want it cleaned up, we want the river monitored and we will be following up through Senator Pennachio's office. Member Hendricks asked is there anyplace where we could find where it was coming from a company. Liaison Ferramosca said no it's a drainage pipe, it must have been a 60-inch drainage pipe coming out from underneath Rt. 287. Member Mattessich said its most likely the collection of all the stuff comes off the highway. Member Matlon said road oil. Liaison Ferramosca said well somebody could have dumped it no, no this is a significant accumulation of oil this is coming from the roadbed you have to come out and inspect the whole area. Member Mian asked how long has this been going on. J. O'Neill said Barclays is interested in doing some riverbanks she said it didn't make sense for them to do any riverbank stabilization now because it would be all pulled out since there is some funding coming in for DE snagging at the river. J. O'Neill said B. Marshall from Garden Magic is an expert on what to plant, where to plant it and when to plant it and B. Marshall reiterated it didn't make any sense to do any planting near the river also because B. Marshall is a planner you really need to do a proper assessment and make recommendations and a plan and certain things can't be planted at certain times of the year and certain plants aren't even available and they would have to be ordered like months in advance for planting time in the spring. J. O'Neill said this would be the person to work with if Barclays wanted to make a long-term plan. J. O'Neill said that S. Snow was going to reach out to the arborist and maybe they can do a shade tree planting. Member Dittrick said B. Marshall was supposed to give his proposal ideas of plantings around Central Park. J. O'Neill said B. Marshall will do that, but B. Marshall can also offer like almost a turnkey operation where not only does an assessment and plan with a proposal and recommendations and can also come out that day. Member Dittrick said if WRWAC and the Green Team are in agreement we give this proposal to Barclays saying that we have somebody who can design to tell us which where and what and to supervise the installation of it would cost in the neighborhood of \$1,500.00, if they don't for the dollars, WRWAC would take it out of their coffers. Member Dittrick said this would be an astronomical job and we should set it up in phases, this maybe something Barclays ongoing project if Barclays wanted it to be their beautification project. Member Matlon said if we can't do any planting this year maybe B. Marshall maybe has ideas as to prepare for planting. Member Dittrick said B. Marshall said there are a lot of areas that need to be cleaned out. Member Matlon maybe that is the stuff that we can do now. Member Fashano discussed South Orange has a river day and they are involved with a middle school. Member Fashano said he reached out to L. Becks of the Environmental Commission of South Orange we are going to have a meeting with the teacher W. Clark who set this river day up. Member Mian said that Bayer does a whole program science making sense. Member Mian asked how are we advertising the event. J. O'Neill said working on it Facebook and

Instagram, we can make a flyer, also need to talk to Barclays if they are participating in the Earth Day Event. Liaison Ferramosca said the town is starting today a program called Tap Into. Liaison Ferramosca said if we send it to S. Snow it will go on the township website and Tap Into and trying to build awareness. J. O'Neill asked would you want a bouncy house for the event. Member Mian suggested an inflatable slide would be better the kids go down it and turn around and go again instead just staying in the bouncy house which would have to be monitored. J. O'Neill discussed the possible vendors that may attend the Earth Day Event.

Green Team

- None.

New Business

- Election of Officers
Member Fashano made a motion to nominate D. Wilson as Chairman of Environmental Commission. Member Hendricks seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Member Matlon made a motion to nominate C. Mattessich and N. Mian as Co-Chairs of the Green Team. Member Hendricks seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

- Pocket Park - Liaison Ferramosca said he spoke with Bayer and asked for some assistance for the new park that we are going to have between where the brew pub is now located and the town homes that they are building, and they said of course they would be happy to plant trees there. Liaison Ferramosca said he will follow up once we get formal ownership of the property. Liaison Ferramosca said it probably won't happen until they get a CO for the town homes. Member Matlon asked is it on the same side as the town homes. Liaison Ferramosca said yes its between the town homes and the brew pub. Liaison Ferramosca said it will provide you access to get to the trail behind where the town homes are located. Member Mattessich asked its where the huge steel bridge is located. Liaison Ferramosca said yes. Member Fashano asked is there a design for what is going to be put there. Liaison Ferramosca said it's too early on.
- Trees – Member Matlon asked about the trees, and planting of trees. Liaison Ferramosca said that there is going to be a significant amount of trees being planted. Member Matlon asked each year is there going to be a budget for trees. Liaison Ferramosca we put it in and hopefully it goes through and next year we should do it again. Liaison Ferramosca said that Hanover worked with five adjoining towns East Hanover, Florham Park, Parsippany, Morris Plains and worked with our Congressional Representative Sherrill getting a 1.8 million grant and that grant will be specifically used to DE snag the Whippany River. Liaison Ferramosca said DE snagging the Whippany River is a challenge you can't go in the river to remove the trees that would require DEP dispensation and that could

take a long time. Liaison Ferramosca said that we are subsequently buy lease specialized equipment that allows you to remove the fallen or dead tree from the river on the shoreline.

- Lanternflies – Member Fashano said that Greenwood Trees has a flyer about the lanternflies it has good control it is a three-step process.

Open To The Public

Adjourn

Secretary Kraynak asked at 8:20 pm if there was any further business if not, is there a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Hendricks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Dittrick seconded the motion. All members were in favor.