



Hamilton Environmental Commission
2090 Greenwood Ave., Hamilton, NJ 08609
Madison Mather, Secretary
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**Minutes from the April 12th, 2023
Environmental Commission Meeting**

Present

John Balletto
Karl Vetter
Cathy Wagner

Clinton Griggs
Ann Wolf
JoAnne Bruno

Carrie Feuer
Claudia Shaughnessy
Rick Tighe

Not Present

Julia Garcia
Nicole Provost
Robert Benjamin

Andrew Garcia
Theodore Buehler

Haig Kasabach
Patrick Nemes

Additional Attendees

Jim Wyrough – Public Works: Recycling/OEM
Fred Dumont – Director of Community and Economic Development

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. by John Balletto. The minutes from the March 8th, 2023 meeting were approved with motion by Ann Wolf and second by Karl Vetter.

Green Team

1. Community Garden (JoAnn)
 - A. Robert Wood Johnson & Isles will be moving forward with Community Garden.
 - B. Fred Dumont advised he has spoken with Sharbell to donate their time/supplies to help build garden boxes.
 - i. Bromley Park will hold this garden – RWJ & Isles hired a design professional to map out location.
 - ii. Members of the EAC had multiple safety, upkeep, and location questions – questions were compiled into an email to Mr. Dumont and we are awaiting response.

- C. Add Bee Houses/Bat Houses (Claudia Shaughnessy) – *On Hold*
- D. Clean up at Library (Claudia Shaughnessy) – Received help from Boy Scout Troop 91.
- E. Wildflower Meadow (Claudia Shaughnessy) - Neighbor advised Claudia they are allergic to bees and would not like this meadow behind their house.
 - i. Thinking of ways to keep the meadow, but help concerned neighbor (maybe a 50 ft. buffer from meadow to their yard, public meeting with Chuck Thomas)
- F. Claudia is helping Alexander Elementary school alongside of Rutgers to help develop their rain garden.

Old Business

1. Council/Mayor's Liaison Update: Carrie
 - A. Bids for new Municipal building came in.
 - B. EV chargers were installed in Vets Park.
 - C. WPC starting new "if you see something, say something" campaign.
2. Stream & Community Clean Up: Haig Kasabach/Jim Wyrrough
 - A. Finalized locations and team leaders.
 - B. Roughly 40/45 volunteers signed up
 - C. Jim Wyrrough providing cleaning materials, safety procedures, and lunch.
 - D. Watershed Update: will be hosting a BBQ community day in Trenton.
3. Rain Barrel event: Karl Vetter
 - A. Flyer approved from Administration
 - B. Req put into Edmunds for supplies
 - C. Rain Barrel date May 6th.
4. Invasive species: John Balletto
 - A. Discussed Commission interest in pursuing a grant to remove invasive species in Vets Park.
 - B. Look for grant to map species to mediate where it occurs
 - i. Carrie will ask Rob Poppert, Mayor & Elissa Schragger if there is an ordinance within Hamilton Township.
 - C. Look into Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space.
5. Food Waste Recycling update: JoAnne Bruno
 - A. Met with Dolph, No new comments
6. Grants: Clint Griggs
 - A. No new comments
7. Groveville Fire House property update: Clint Griggs
 - A. Still waiting for response from Fire Chief
8. ERI: Clint
 - A. A zoom meeting was held, we saw progress on updated maps and fielded questions on various sections of the document.
 - B. We will be contacting the Historical Society to review the history section.

New Business

1. General Discussion:
 - A. Mail From Developer – reviewed
 - i. Gave Copy to Township Engineer Samantha Brown
2. DEP giving out tree permits & tree ordinances for street trees
3. Proposed warehouse on Kuser
 - A. Got vote down at Planning & Zoning board meeting
 - B. EAC would like to speak to Mayor about why there should not be a new warehouse on Kuser.

Land Use Applications

The following applications were reviewed:

Application No: 23-03-005: No Comment

Application No: 22-09-022: No Comment

Application No: 23-03-007: The site plans indicate that the site contains wetlands that were delineated by a contractor. However, there is no indication that the wetland delineation lines were approved by the NJDEP (no LOI/approval letter from the NJDEP was submitted with the application). In addition, the applicant proposes to disturb the wetlands by removing trees and placing gravel in the wetlands. The EAC strongly objects to this plan. Furthermore, it appears that no applications for disturbance of the wetlands have been submitted to the NJDEP for approval. Is the NJDEP involved at this time?

Application No: 23-04-008: The site plans and the storm water management report indicate that an "underground infiltration" basin will be used to control storm water runoff. Other portions of the report refer to the proposed basin as a "detention/infiltration basin." However, the site soils are classified as having minimal infiltration. The storm water management report provides the same information (soils have minimal infiltration). How will collected storm water be infiltrated? The storm water report mentions that there will be overflow from the proposed basin but does not indicate where the overflow will go.

The storm water control system O&M manual submitted with the application refers to vegetation control within the basin. How is this possible if the basin is to be located underground? Portions of the O&M manual seem to apply to aboveground basins.

The proposed management of storm water at this site is confusing and needs clarification.

Application No: 23-04-009: No Comment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, May 10th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Council Conference, 2090 Greenwood Avenue

Submitted by Madison Mather, Secretary to the Hamilton Township Environmental Commission

cc: Environmental Commission/Liaisons
Mayor Jeff Martin
Fred Dumont, Director of CPC
Robert Poppert, Supervising Planner

Kathryn Monzo, Business Administrator
Alison Sabo, Municipal Clerk
Samantha Brown, Township Engineer