



Hamilton Environmental Commission
2090 Greenwood Ave., Hamilton, NJ 08609
Madison Mather, Secretary
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**Minutes from the June 14, 2023
Environmental Commission Meeting**

Present

John Balletto
Robert Benjamin
Haig Kasabach
JoAnne Bruno

Clinton Griggs
Ann Wolf
Andrew Garcia
Nicolina Contardo

Carrie Feuer
Claudia Shaughnessy
Karl Vetter
William Wall

Not Present

Rick Tighe

Nicole Provost

Cathy Wagner

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:40 p.m. by John Balletto. The minutes from the May 10, 2023 meeting were approved with motion by Clinton Griggs and second by Ann Wolf.

Green Team

A Presentation entitled, "Nonlethal Geese Solutions for Mercer County." The presentation was presented by Nancy Minich of NAM Planning and Design LLC and sponsored by the Animal Protection League of New Jersey. The presentation discussed the control of Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) through the use native landscaping. This was essentially planting tiered vegetation along the shoreline. Geese will not use the waterbody since they cannot see potential predators on the shoreline. John Balletto has the information package provided and reached out to Chuck Thomas to determine if the Township does in fact have a goose problem.

1. New members to the Green Team - Nicolina Contardo and William Wall were welcomed.
2. Community Garden (JoAnn Bruno)
 - a. John Balletto, Claudia Shaughnessy and Carrie Feuer met with Chuck Thomas and Bianca Jerez to discuss the community garden and the pollinator garden.
 - b. The RWJ and Isles effort are a done deal. The Commission was requested to identify other sites and work with Chuck to implement them.

3. Add Bee Houses/Bat Houses (Claudia Shaughnessy)
 - a. Claudia Shaughnessy reported that there are bat houses being installed by the Boy Scouts in Veterans Park.
4. Wildflower Meadow (Claudia Shaughnessy)
 - a. The wildflower meadow relocation was discussed. Claudia Shaughnessy reported that the plants were unable to be watered during a very dry period. Chuck Thomas said that now that the construction ditching was completed at the Ecological Center, he would provide access.
5. Signs (Carrie Feuer/Claudia Shaughnessy)
 - a. It was determined that we needed to design signs similar to the Mercer County Park or Nation Park Service for the public information signs.

Old Business

1. Council/Mayor's Liaison Update (Carrie Feuer)
 - a. Carrie Feuer proposed to the Mayor that the Commission have an increased communication program. This would be a multipart program. She proposed a one-page two-sided Commission newsletter similar to what her organization prepares monthly and is mailed out by the Township to all residences. The subjects would be determined by the Commission and written by Commission members. In order to be interesting to the residents, there needs to be a lot of pictures. The other communication avenues would be greater use of the Township's social media program. Since the Township calendar is starting preparation, the Commission could prepare factoids to be used in the Calendar.
 - b. Dates need to be determined for the Stream and Park Cleanup and the Rain Barrel
2. Invasive species (John Balletto)
 - a. The program outline was edited per the direction of the Commission into two phases, planning and implementation. A summary of the program is also being prepared for submission to Millennium.
3. Food Waste Recycling update (JoAnne Bruno)
 - a. John Balletto has prepared a summary for a grant which was submitted to Joy Kerlin for submission to Millennium. Joy Kerlin has submitted it to the Mayor's office for review prior to sending to Millennium.
4. Grants (Clint Griggs)
 - a. No comments
5. ERI (Clint)
 - a. Second progress meeting was postponed due to illness and availability. It will be rescheduled.
 - b. Clint has discussed with Dr. Federici, Hamilton Historical Society who will revise the History Section. Carrie Feuer has submitted a section on the Water Pollution Control System for review by Clint Griggs and John Balletto.
 - c. Mel Musie indicated that we will begin to receive figures and maps soon.

New Business

1. General Discussion:
 - a. Julia Garcia resigned from the commission. Her service is greatly appreciated.

2. Food waste program at a school (Ann Wolf)
 - a. EAC has become aware of a program titled "NJ Leaves No Bite Behind" which is a two-year state funded project focused on educational interventions to reduce food waste in schools. The project is led by Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County. The Horbelt School received a \$10,000 grant from Rutgers. The Center for Ecotechnology is helping to manage the grant. EAC will continue to explore if we can do something like this. Websites to review are:
 - <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/school-food-waste/>
 - <https://wastedfood.cetonline.org/states/new-jersey/>
 - <https://wastedfood.cetonline.org/toolbox/>

Land Use Applications

The following applications were reviewed:

Application No: 22-04-008A

Karl Vetter and John Balletto had previously provided extensive comments on the previous submittal. The reports were too big for the drop box function and the reports were requested to be supplied to determine if previous comments were addressed. Karl expressed an email to Mike Guhanick with detailed comments will follow shortly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, July 12, 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	Kathryn Monzo, Business Administrator
	Fred Dumont, Director of CPC	Alison Sabo, Municipal Clerk
	Robert Poppert, Supervising Planner	Samantha Brown, Township Engineer