

HOLMDEL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes ~ Reorganization/Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2022– 7:30 p.m. Via Zoom Webinar

Bill Kastning called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., and Loretta Coscia read the following **OPENING STATEMENT:** *“I hereby announce, pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided on January 14, 2022 to the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times. Notice has also been posted in the entrance of Town Hall, filed in the Clerk’s Office, and posted on the Township’s website, www.holmdeltownship.com all pursuant to Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act.”*

Roll Call

Members Present: Ralph Blumenthal
Zachary Gilstein
Bill Kastning, *Chairperson*
Randy Rauscher
Karen Strickland
Christopher Yonclas
Janet Jackel, *Alternate 1*
John Galasso, *Alternate 2*
Loretta Coscia, Secretary
Allison McLeod, Meeting Host

Absent: Anthony Salerno

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence to honor military and police who have been wounded or killed in action

HEC Reorganization

- Nomination for Vice Chair
Motion made by Zach seconded by Randy to appoint Karen Strickland as Vice Chairperson for 2022. Motion carried on voice vote.
- Meeting dates 2022
Motion by Ralph seconded by Randy to approve the proposed meeting dates. Motion carried on voice vote.

Environmental Commission Business

- Monmouth County Audubon Society Bird Conservation Grant – Due March 1, 2022.

Janet included in the budget, four bird houses, and poles for them to be placed. Bob Ward, Parks and Recreation, said he could find volunteers. **Motion** by Ralph seconded by Zach to approve proceeding with this grant application. Motion carried on voice vote.

- Ramanessin Brook Water Quality Monitoring Plan – Update

Ralph said we will not pursue this per the vote at the last HEC meeting.

- Waackaack Creek Study
- Stream blockages/flooding Middle Road

Bill and Chris both reached out for an update on the study. Neither received a response. Ralph said as it involves Middletown and Hazlet, we need the Township Engineer involved in the discussion.

John said the Middle Road bridge was silted-in, and not enough flow which caused flooding on the properties. Dredging the stream channel is questionable as to how effective it would be. Ralph said somewhere down-stream is a cause as to why this happens. John said this is beyond his expertise. At least digging around the bridge would help alleviate some of the flooding onto these peoples' properties. Bill said Green Acres policy is to do an assemblage of parcels as opposed to a one-off, so he doubts there will be Blue Acres funding available.

Ralph asked where all this silt is coming from and what can one do to stop it closer from the source. Bill said Janet had mentioned using the property behind the TD Bank to use as a massive holding facility. Bill said one of the two parcels owned by the Township is on the ROSI. One is the proposed location for detention/retention basin. If you slow the water flow on the south side of Route 35 then the siltation would not be as extreme below that. Bill to speak with Cherron to get after Rutgers for the study. He will also ask about money for engineering. Open Space ref included monies for flooding. They will have money as soon as resolution/ordinance is created. Karen said the number one thing is getting the bridge cleaned out underneath. Ralph said would like to speak with the township engineer to tell them of the issues and let him make the decision on contacting the County. Karen thinks the Township Engineer should do the walk to observe the stream. Zach said we do not know whether the engineer is the right person to take that walk. Karen offered to provide a write-up for Bill to present to Cherron. We need to know how we coordinate with Hazlet, Middletown, and the County since it is well beyond a problem for Holmdel.

- Trails

Janet said she was speaking with Bob Ward about trails. He recognizes that there are problems. He had been contacted by *Preserve Holmdel* to make sure trails are being taken care of. It is a big job, way beyond volunteers. At Bayonet, there is a culvert where the path goes down steeply. It jams up and is cleaned out every now and then. Need to deal with the culvert problem first. Bill suggested speaking with Acquisition and Design, the master trail planner for the County, Paul Gleetz. He may have the appropriate contact within the County. Janet will contact Paul Gleetz.

- Artificial Turf Fields

Zach said the proposal for a turf field is facing Satz school on the left side of the parking lot. There is a stream near the entrance to the parkway. A few years ago, the town was looking to install turf fields and that was one of the places, but there were

environmental concerns. Ralph said since the area had previously been disturbed for grass and playing fields if it changes what one is allowed to do within the C-1 300-foot buffer. Bill said since it is disturbed, you can continue to disturb it. If you redevelop it in some way, you would not be able to alter the quantity and quality of water being discharged into the tributary. Bill said work would have to be done to the artificial turf to prevent adverse impact of water flow. Zach asked since this is a school board project who oversees this. Ralph said the DEP still has jurisdiction. Any capital project of the Board of Education gets a cursory review before the Planning Board. Bill will contact Cathy Weber, the Board of Education liaison.

Planning Board

Brightview Senior Living Development, LLC – NJSH Rt. 35 ~ Block 58, Lot 29.01 Preliminary/Final Major Site Plan #2021-3 Applicant seeks relief to construct a three-story (Brightview) Senior Living Congregate Care and Assisted Living Facility on the subject parcel. The building has a total gross floor area of 203,921 SF. Additional improvements include driveways, parking areas, landscaping, lighting, and stormwater management facilities.

Application to be heard by the Planning Board on February 15. Bill as a member of the Planning Board, reviewed the documentation on the application. They are doing substantial buffering to the neighborhood situated behind it. No threatened or endangered species on the site. There are no unaddressed environmental issues on this application.

Adjournment

There being no further business at 9:15 p.m., **motion** by Ralph seconded by Karen. Motion carried on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Coscia
Secretary

Proceedings Recorded
Minutes approved 3/9/2022 (RB/KS)