

**Town of Clinton
Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2023, at 7:30 PM on Zoom**

Attendees

Kim Stentz, John Kashwick, Veronique Lambert, Mary Jo Kurtiak, Dean Solomos. Absent: Ken Carberry, Dylan Mahr

Administrative Matters

- John called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm on Zoom.
- Motion to approve the September 18 minutes was made by Dean and seconded by Mary. Motion passed 4-0-1.
- Motion to approve the October 16 minutes was made by Veronique and seconded by Kim. Motion passed 4-0-1.
- The Mayor forwarded a letter to John from a resident that wanted a reminder sent out that by statute, no lawn fertilizers should be applied between November 15 and March 30. John will reach out to the Business Administrator to have an email sent out a note posted on our web site. We will also publish it in the newsletter next year.
- For 2024, the Commission will continue to meet on the third Monday of the month, however there was a request to move the January meeting since it falls on Martin Luther King Day. Tuesday, January 16 was proposed as the date.

Council Liaison (John)

- Ken Fischer was not able to make the meeting again to discuss the I-78 issues.
- John mentioned that the Buildings and Grounds Committee was considering replacing the lights at the pickleball courts. He sent an email to Councilman Nick Bruno providing the contact information for a vendor that provided dark sky friendly lighting. Councilman Bruno spoke with the vendor and the courts will be getting low temperature (2700K) lighting and will be on a timer set to turn off at 7:30 each night.
- John suggested the Commission request a budget of \$550 for 2024. This will allow for membership to ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) and have some money to assist with the river clean-up.

Land Use Board (Ken)

- Ken was not able to attend but the Moebus hearings are continuing.

Shade Tree Commission Liaison Report (Kim)

- All trees have been planted in the Kings Crossing area from grant funding. The planting passed inspection by the DEP.
- Kim is working on the iTree program to do an inventory of street trees.
- The Commission is developing a policy for memorial tree donations.
- Kim mentioned that she and her daughter Eleanor are continuing to remove invasive species from the field in Hunts Mills Park.

Green Team

The Green Team met just prior to the Environmental Commission and discussed the following:

- Deena is again spearheading a recycling program for holiday lights.
- The Town received its Sustainable Jersey bronze certification award at the League of Municipalities conference in Atlantic City in November. Mayor Kovach, Councilwoman Padmos, and John Kashwick were there to accept and attend the annual luncheon.
- The Green Team discussed several projects to work on for 2024:
 - Anti-idling (Kim, Deena, Veronique)
 - Buy Local (Norma)
 - Invasive aquatic species e.g. water chestnut (Mary Jo)
 - Partnering with Schools (Kim)
 - Composting, Leave the Leaves, No Mow (Kim, Deena, Denise, Mary Jo)
 - Tree Preservation Ordinance (John, Kim)
 - Lighting Ordinance (John)
 - Electric Vehicles (Deena)
 - Graphic Arts/Communication (Grace)
- Sustainable Jersey has grant opportunities available (due February 9). John will be attending a webinar on December 7. He would like to work on a pilot project showing improved street lighting).

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

John Kashwick