

# **Town of Clinton Environmental Commission**

## **Online Meeting**

**July 13, 2020, 7:30 pm**

## **Minutes**

**Attendance:** Mike Humphrey, Tamara Healy, Véronique Lambert, Jendayi Jones

**Review of minutes** of 6-8-2020 meeting – due to lack of quorum, this was deferred for next meeting

### **Old Business**

1. Financial Disclosure reminder
2. Property Maintenance Ordinance – Review draft ordinance (circulated by email on 7/11/2020). Tara St. Angelo, the town attorney, is reviewing text highlighted by Rich, then the draft will be reviewed by Mayor, then by Council. Veronique has not yet reviewed it in detail. Tammy did review it and found some inconsistencies and typos – seems like it was cut and paste from other documents. Tammy is concerned that the draft focuses on penalizing people who are not maintaining property and this is not a good time for a punitive approach given the economic and other difficulties faced by many people during the pandemic. Tammy is also concerned that the current draft gives a lot of ammunition to people to go after neighbors with whom they do not agree. It seems like the tone has pivoted away from the environmental protection focus that the EC had discussed. There are some terms that are defined that are not referenced in the ordinance (e.g. petroleum products). Mike explained that hazardous substances are dealt with in other ordinances and agreed that this should be clarified in the PM ordinance. Tammy suggests aligning body of ordinance to purpose in #3 of Section 1 where the environmental scope of the ordinance is outlined. Mike said that we can modify the language and modify the fines. The ordinance references other existing Clinton ordinances that deal with related issues, such as tree maintenance and removal. Mike said that he will advocate for removing maintenance of structures from this ordinance and suggest that another body of town government, e.g. Land Use Board, undertake consideration of maintenance issues related to structures. He will go back to Tara with comments from EC and will return document with edits from Tara by Thursday, July 16. Mike requests that we come back for a one-hour meeting in two weeks on Monday, July 27 to review the revised ordinance with edits by Tara.

## **New Business**

1. Report on Hunterdon HUB meeting on 6/25/2020 attended by Véronique Lambert – RVCC's Center for Environmental Studies can provide students to work on projects for municipalities in Hunterdon County. The students work with input from and under supervision of Professors Emilie Stander and Jay Kelly. Examples of projects with municipalities - deer inventory, street tree inventory, open space inventory of natural features and identify educational value. Website: <https://www.raritanval.edu/Environmental-Studies>
2. Update from Town Council – Michael Humphrey – Councilwomen Megan Johnson and Riley Karsh will organize a town clean up in August. Mike will let us know the date. Street closings on Friday, Saturdays and Sundays is causing unforeseen problems with blocking access to curbside pickup. So town is thinking of buying heavy duty plastic barriers that can be filled with water to allow restaurants to put tables on street so that sidewalks can be used as sidewalks.
3. Update from Land Use Board – Tamara Healy – met July 7 and had 2 agenda items. 1. Riverside Drive has a couple of empty lots – the owner has been trying to develop them for a number of years. The owner was approved to proceed with the building of two 2-family units. 2. Second item was for board discussion and cannot be discussed publicly.
4. Clinton resident Rebecca Walters attended meeting to let EC and Council know that one side of Agway Building facing Fox Lumber is covered with poison ivy. Also, she has noticed significant increased coverage of water lilies and cat tails in river. She has lived in Clinton since 2016 and kayaks in the river.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, July 27, to review the revised property maintenance ordinance