

Hazlet Township Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes 03-05-2012

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Chairwoman Mazza

Salute to the flag and moment of silent reflection

CHAIRWOMAN’S STATEMENT: Read by Com. Pease

Roll Call:	Present	Absent
Com. Bucci	X	
Com. Cavanagh	X	
Com.Dahlgren		X
Vice Chair. Lejda	X	

Chairwoman Mazza	X
Com. Pease	X
Com. Shewan	X
Alt. 1 Geer	X
Township Comm. Liaison Aagre	X
Township Comm. Liaison Brady	X

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 6, 2012

OFFERED: Com.Shewan

2nd : Com. Pease

Roll Call: Yes No Abstain Absent

Com. Bucci

Com. Cavanagh

Com. Dahlgren

Vice Chair Lejda

Com. Pease

Chairwoman Mazza

Com. Shewan

Alt. 1 Geer

Voice Vote: YES

New Business:

Eagle Scout Projects Jordan Bowen was in touch with Chair Mazza. He will be building bat houses.

Hazlet Happenings – An article for the March issue is due by March 8th. Com. Bucci volunteered to write an article about our Earth Day celebration.

State Strategic Plan: New Jersey's State Development and Redevelopment Plan –

Chair Mazza received an e-mail regarding the State Strategic Plan. There were hearings last week that generated a lot of response. She is concerned that the Plan more emphasizes the economic development possibly at the expense of the environment. She said we should review it. Com. Bucci stated that the County favors affluent towns with lots of farmland and he is concerned that the same will happen at the State level. Com. Cavanagh said he would find the link to the Plan and e-mail it to everyone. Chair Mazza asked that everyone read the document before the next meeting. It is approximately 50 pages. Com. Geer said the Plan put up by the Monmouth County Planning Board states that all counties will have an opportunity to participate in the development of the "scorecard". The "scorecard" is the instrument used to allocate state funding. Com. Geer suggested that we keep in contact with the Monmouth County Planning Board so we get our opinions heard. Cty. Plan. Bd. Paul Grebtz 732-842-4000 Supervisor Mr. Wickham ex. 4263. HEC will keep an eye on newspapers regarding any public meetings on this topic. We will keep this on the Agenda.

Natco Park Construction Update –

Twp. Com. Brady had no report yet because the township just had a meeting with DEP today.

Twp Com. Aagre said they will have more information in a few days. Com. Cavanagh asked about the documents that the HEC requested from Brian Valentino. Chair Mazza said she just requested the documents and Mr. Valentino is collecting that information.

Chair Mazza opened the meeting to citizens that are attending to speak on the Bart PI construction. Questions about this topic only will be taken at this time.

Chair Mazza summarized that the DEP examined the area and have been in touch with the Township. The Township will be in touch with the Environmental Commission regarding the next steps. Com. Shewan stated that there was a fire on the Bart PI road recently. It was approximately 600 ft. into the park and affected approximately 1 1/2 – 2 acres. Trees were charred but not burnt down. Com Cavanagh stated that we should request an incident report from the fire Marshall. Com. Shewan was in contact

with the Fire Marshall and he had no report. Mrs. Larsen stated that the fire happened on Feb. 21st at around 2 or 3 pm. North Centerville Fire Company responded. Comm. Aagre said he will look into getting a report. Com. Geer suggested getting an aerial view of the damaged area from the County to document the damage. Chair Mazza asked if we have an aerial view before the roads were put into the Park? Com. Cavanagh stated that you cannot see below the tree level and we would get more information on foot. Comm. Aagre stated that it would cost and what will it show? Com Geer stated that the DEP was at the site at least 3 times. Did they recommend any immediate steps? Comm. Aagre said they have not. Chair Mazza said the Township Committee Meeting is tomorrow night and they will be discussing the Natco Park construction.

Citizens concern regarding area surrounding HYAL Football Field

Nancy Ingravido was not available due to a death in the family

UPDATES:

Natco Sub-Committee – Com. Lejda

Com. Geer had questions about the x-country course proposed in Natco Park. He questioned if anyone knows the meaning of passive recreation. Chair Mazza said that the definition is clearly stated on the NJDEP website. She also spoke to Nancy Lawerence, who works for the Green Acres Program and she stated that the natural trails in Natco can be used for x-country. The trails can be cleaned up and improved without paving. Com. Shewan stated that the course was brought to us by a private citizen, it has nothing to do with the Township. Also, the Township did state that the matching monies will not come from the general fund. Com Geer was concerned about new trails being put into the park and the fact that the HEC has not approved anything yet. Chair Mazza said that we never discussed new trails, it was her understanding that the original trails would be cleaned up and markers replaced and we hope to have an entry way into the park. Comm. Aagre stated that the engineers and environmental will walk the park, identify the trails then come back to the next HEC meeting and set up a sub-committee. Com.

Geer asked if the matching funds would come from Open Space money. Comm. Aagre said it can come from Open Space for improvements, but that's not the plan. He will let us know at the next HEC meeting in April. Com. Shewan stated that he understood the confusion about the trail grant. The HEC never agreed to 8 ft. wide trails. Comm. Aagre said it was decided to bring them down from 10 ft wide trails to 8 ft. Mrs. Larsen, a resident had a copy of the November meeting minutes when the grant was discussed with Dennis Dayback, township engineer. Chair Mazza read the section of the minutes regarding the widening of the trails. No one agreed that on a specific width for the trails. Com. Shewan stated that he requested the deed to Natco Park from Comm. Brady at the last meeting and has not yet received it. Chair Mazza requested a copy of the grant application. She would like to know if the application specifies trail width. She asked do we have to widen the trails for emergency vehicles? Comm Aagre said he would get her a copy of the application

Com. Bucci read part of the meeting minutes from Feb. 6, 2012 at which the engineer, Dennis Dayback attended. He read that Com. Shewan asked about the trail width and Mr. Dayback response was "the trails would be kept as natural as possible with minimal disturbance". Mr. Dayback said with our(HEC) concerns he would not recommend a uniform size trail throughout the park.

V.C. Lejda said she ordered trees for Earth Day, April 14, raindate April 28 behind Lillian Dr School.

Planning Board – Com. Shewan

Office building of Dr. Ali on Pool Ave.(near Red Oak Diner) The plans were approved, no environmental issues. Rt 36 property near Laural Ave. asked for a site plan waiver which was denied. Academy Bus Co. is expanding the parking lot and taking down a building and putting up a ticket booth. No environmental issues. Coming up: Costco. Com. Shewan does not want to get into this issue yet.

Zoning Board – Township Comm. Liaison Brady

Comm Brady said residents with pools and additions came in for approval. The Park East issue was carried over to next meeting. They would like to expand the parking lot. Com. Shewan asked about Angel Deli on Bethany and Holmdel Rd.- they are trying to get approved for 24 hr. service. Comm. Aagre stated it has been denied several times.

Open Space Advisory Council- Com. Bucci, Com Cavanagh

Com. Bucci stated that he discussed the property adjacent to IFF with the CEO and their attorney and they are not interested in selling/donating the property. They consider it a buffer zone. In fact they would like to acquire more property. They have no plans to develop the property. Chair Mazza asked if they could build on the property. Com. Bucci said between wet lands and streams he doesn't think there would be much property left to build on. Continuation of this topic would be at the next Open Space Meeting. Com. Cavanagh applauded Com. Bucci for taking the initiative to contact IFF.

Com Cavanagh spoke about the acquisition on the Waackaack property. He expressed concern about the necessity to create more structure around the process of locating Open Space property.

He said we need to refresh the list of properties available to us. Com. Cavanagh expressed concern about some interest in the an easement that might affect the road to the Hazlet soccer fields. A piece of the property is owned by Holmdel but the applicant is Costco. Chair Mazza asked about the property on Middle Rd that we were interested in for an entrance to Natco Park. Com. Cavanagh said the owners of the property are not interested in selling.

Bayshore Regional Watershed Council – Com. Geer

Com. Geer stated that there was a seal walk on Sandy Hook on March 3 or 4. He will have more updates next month.

Recreation – Twp. Com. Liaison Brady

Trips are starting, please check the updated website for more information.

Hazlet Township website update –Twp. Liaison Aagre

Com. Geer was concerned that there is no way to contact the Committeemen directly. He will bring this up at the Township Committee meeting tomorrow night.

Facebook update – Com. Bucci

We Have 60+ friends – No Updates, the calendar was put up last month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Holmdel Patch Blog- Chair Mazza said Christina welcomes articles for her Blog. Chair Mazza blogged.

Com. Shewan stated that there will be a Land Conservation Rally at Brookdale Community College on March 10, 2012 7:45-5:00PM Lunch, Wine Tasting, workshops and Roundtable Discussions is included for \$80.00. Chair Mazza stated that we have money in the budget if anyone was interested in going.

2011BUDGET:

April 2011 – ANJEC dues paid \$360.00

April 2011 – Earth Day supplies/trees \$155.00

October 2011 – Hazlet Day

December 2011 – Holiday Tree Decoration \$92.06

2012 HEC Meeting Dates:

Dates are: Jan.9th , Feb. 6th , March 5th , April 2nd , May 7th, June 11th, July 2nd , Aug. 6th , Sept. 10th, Oct. 1st, Nov. 12th, Dec. 3rd, Jan. 7th ,2013.

June meeting was changed from the 4th to the 11th due to the Primary

2012 CALENDAR:

Earth Day – April 14, rain date April 28- 11am

Peepers Walk – April 20, rain date April 21 7:30pm(behind Lillian Dr. School)

Spring Clean up – May 12, rain date May19 -10am at Stone Rd.

Memorial Day Service – May 28 10am at Veterans Park

Hazlet Day – Sept. 29 at Veterans Park

Fall Clean up - TBA

Holiday Tree Decoration – Dec. 1, rain date Dec. 2

Citizen Hearing:

Barbara Casagrande – Seventh St., west Keansburg. Ms. Casagrande asked if there is any way to influence the Master Plan. She would like to give her input. Com. Cavanagh said she could give her input

by contacting the [www. Monmouth County Planning Board.org](http://www.MonmouthCountyPlanningBoard.org) there is a link to the Master Plan. She could google New Jersey Master Plan. Com. Cavanagh stated that Hazlet and most of the shore area is excluded since the county looks for large parcels like farmland to purchase. The HEC encouraged Ms. Casagrande to contact the County and express her concerns.

Ron Dente – 14 Oregon Dr. Hazlet – Mr. Dente informed the HEC of a clean up on April 7, 2012 from 10am – 12pm behind Lakeside Manor with the Bayshore Water Shed Council. Mr. Dente asked if the proposed x-country course was put into the park would part of the park be closed to the public while it is being used by the x-country team? Chair Mazza wanted to make it clear that the x-country course was proposed by a private citizen not the Township or the Environmental Commission. She didn't think the x-counrty runners would make a big impact on other people using the park.

Krystyna Larsen – 95 Bart Pl. Hazlet – Mrs. Larsen asked if resting benches could be put along the trails in Natco Park. Chair Mazza stated that they could as long as they were made of natural wood, the same kind of wood found in the park. She said possibly something that looks like a fall tree so they wouldn't be as tempting to vandals. Com. Buscci said that in the past benches were thrown into the lake. Comm. Aagre stated that it would make a good Eagle Scout Project.

Motion to close citizens hearing:

Offered – Com. Bucci

2nd - Com. Pease

Voice Vote:

Motion to Adjourn:

Offered – Com. Pease

2nd – Com. Cavanagh

Voice Vote: Yes

Next Meeting: April 2, 2012 – 8PM