

HAZLET ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 3, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order

Salute to the Flag and moment of silent reflection

CHAIRMAN’S STATEMENT: Read by Chairman Dente

Roll Call:	Present	Absent
Chairman Dente	X	
Com. Geer	X	
Com. Ledja		X
Com. Eng	X	
Com. Isenburg	X	
Com. Freisendorf	X	
Com. Pobega	X	
Alt#1 Pallitto		X
Alt#2 Lipel	X	
Township Committee Representative, Mayor Tara Clark	X	
Township Committee Representative, James “Skip” McKay		
Public Information Officer Christina Johnson	X	

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from April 5th, 2021

OFFERED: Com. Isenburg	2nd: Com. Friesendorf		
	YES	Abstain	Absent
Chairman Dente	X		
Com. Geer	X		
Com. Ledja			X
Com. Eng	X		
Com. Isenburg	X		
Com. Freisendorf	X		
Com. Pobega	X		
Alt#1 Pallitto			X
Alt#2 Lipel	X		

NEW BUSINESS:

HEC Newsletter

- Com. Pobega will use the information from the New Environmental Building article by Christina Johnson to write an article for the summer newsletter
- Com. Geer wrote an article about climate change that will be added to the newsletter

Monmouth Jet Ski Application

- Commissioners weighed the potential environmental dangers of the proposed Jet Ski dock. Spoke about the noise, air, and water pollution that will harm the ecosystem.
- Looked at data on the environmental impacts of jet skis; a 2 hour ride dumps 3-4 gallons of oil into the water
- MTBE fuel that leaks into the water is very dangerous to plankton and harms the ecosystem

MOTION: The Hazlet Environmental Commission is against the Monmouth County Jet Ski Application due to concerns over water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, and the negative effects it will have on the wildlife and the ecosystem.

OFFERED: Com. Pobega

2nd: Chairman Dente

Roll Call:	YES	Abstain	NO	Absent
Chairman Dente	X			
Com. Geer	X			
Com. Ledja				X
Com. Eng	X			
Com. Isenburg		X		
Com. Friesendorf	X			
Com. Pobega	X			
Alt#1 Pallitto				X
Alt#2 Lipel	X			

Natco Park Memorial Bench for Judy Mescal

- Resident Amy Mescal attended the meeting and spoke to the HEC about donating a memorial bench and tree at the new Environmental Building site in honor of her mother, Judy Mescal, who passed away last year.
- Judy Mescal was a longtime Hazlet resident who was a member on the HEC for many years and was a strong advocator for the environment who helped make Natco Park what it is today
- HEC offered to donate the bench in her honor as a reminder to all of the work that she has done for the Commission and the Park.
- The new Environmental Building site is still undergoing foundational development - paving the road, furnishing the building, installing security. Once the development is done, Chairman Dente will work with Amy Mescal to pick a bench and a tree that is native to the area and will thrive in the location.
- HEC mentioned picking a standard bench model to use for future memorial benches in Natco Park

Natco Park Fish

- The dead fish is due the Vibrio bacteria in the water from the increased temperature. More information here: https://mailchi.mp/740ffcaf20ff/why-so-many-dead-fish-on-local-beaches?fbclid=IwAR1PO84gls-FKV63DKI7xCBirt5CtPI9mxbtkBYsoQ-w8sjyknECMeVcg_Q
- Chairman Dente called the Monmouth County Health Department asking if they could make a sign so people who visit Natco Park know not to go near the fish or into the water. They will contact him back.
- Chairman Dente may ask Public Works to create one or two signs, with verbage suggested by the Monmouth Country Health Department, if they can not create the sign.

Junior HEC Commission

- Secretary Walker brought up an idea for a Junior HEC Commission to get the HEC to collaborate with younger students.
- Com. Pobega mentioned that there used to be a Raritan Environmental Club Liaison. This position could be reinstated.
- Mayor Clark recommended coming up with ideas now to get this started in September.

ANJEC Grant

- Com. Eng sent in an application on April 19th for a \$1,500 grant that would help to revise the Natco Park Educational Guidebook. She should receive a response on May 15th.

Environmental Building

- Environmental Resource Inventory will help to assess which parts of Natco Park can be used for certain activities. Dogs will only be allowed on certain trails to not disturb the animals. Intend on having a picnic area, as well as a trail that will be easily accessible for Seniors.
- Mayor Clark was looking at flexible furniture for the building. This allows for one big table, or broken smaller tables so that the room can fit the occasion. Dennis Pino is waiting for the HEC to pick furniture to place the order. HEC will look at the furniture pieces next meeting.
- Mayor Clark is meeting with photographer and previous Hazlet Resident Richard Angelillo, who graciously agreed to let the HEC have some of the photos he's taken of nature in Hazlet. These photos will be on display in the Building as soon as it is furnished.
- Chairman Dente mentioned using Clean Communities funds to possibly purchase two garbage cans to be located outside of the Building for the convenience of citizens.
- Restrooms will be open to citizens once the security systems are set up.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion to close Old Business

Offered - Com. Pobega 2nd- Com. Isenburg

_____ **Voice Vote: YES**

CITIZENS HEARING:

No Citizens Spoke

Motion to close citizens hearing:

Offered – Com. Freisendorf 2nd- Com. Pobega

Voice Vote: YES

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Offered– Com. Pobega 2nd – Com. Eng

Voice Vote: YES

Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: – June 7th, 2021 at 7 p.m.

