

Approved 12/10/20  


**STANHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Minutes: Regular Meeting  
November 12, 2020

RECEIVED  
DEC 11 2020  
STANHOPE  
BOROUGH

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** at 7:41PM by Mike Balogh with flag salute.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE:** In compliance with the New Jersey Assembly Bill No. 1030, notice for this meeting was sent to the *New Jersey Herald* and the *Daily Record* on January 9, 2020 and was posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building on the same day.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Owen Newson, Nicole Member, John Rogalo  
Anthony Riccardi, Mike Balogh  
Absent: None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

October 8, 2020 minutes were approved. Motion made by John Rogalo and seconded by Nicole Member. Abstain: Mike Balogh (MC)

**OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Received:**

Land Use Board: Juntos Holdings/Blk 11205/Lot 1 & 4.01: Site Plan App.

Land Use Board: Bruzzese/Blk 11304/Lot 19: Variance App.

10/28/20 Ellen Horak, Clerk: Annual Attendance Report

11/9/20 Email: Pat Ryan, Acting Manager, Bureau of Inland Reg. DEP:

Furnace Pond Trails

11/9/20 Email: Barbara Heskins Davis, VP Programs, Land Conservancy of NJ:

Open Space grant

**Sent:**

None

**CURRENT ACTIVITY:**

**2020 Annual Attendance Report:** Owen circulated the attendance report for member review. No corrections made. Owen will submit.

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting: EC requests:** Discussion was held on this upcoming meeting. We will all try to attend. The EC agreed that we must develop a clear and evidentiary response to Council questions. We will do this at our EC December meeting.

**Musconetcong Watershed Association: Stormwater workshop:** The EC will schedule a workshop once Covid-19 is over.

**Clean Communities: 4/25/21** No movement

## **CURRENT ACTIVITY (Cont.):**

**Facebook: Topic for month:** The EC agreed to post Musconetcong Watershed Assn. videos as an educational tool for borough residents.

**Open Space Plan Committee: Davis email:** An email from Barbara Davis of The Land Conservancy of NJ concerning the opportunity for open space plan funding was discussed. The EC agreed that Owen should forward this email to Brian McNeilly (administrator) and Patty Zdichocki (Mayor) for advisement. John stated that we should reassess joining the Open Space county fund. We tried years ago and failed but the few pennies tax are worth the potential benefits.

**Trail Maintenance: 11/7/21:** Discussion was held on the potential of an outdoor classroom on the Tri-Community Trail.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Plastic Ordinance:** The EC agreed that since the state has passed a state wide plastic ordinance, there is no need for further discussion. Owen will remove topic from agenda.

**Lakeside Park plantings:** We will discuss this with Council on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>

**Furnace Pond Trails/DEP approval: Ryan email:** The email to Mike from Pat Ryan of the Bureau of Inland Regulation (DEP) was discussed. Pre-engineered drawings may be used but only after submission of signed and sealed plans. Numerous grant opportunities that Nicole researched for funding the plan were discussed. The EC questioned why the borough's grant writer does not present this info. The EC agreed we should bring this up at the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with Council.

**Invasive Plant Species workshop:** The EC agreed there is a need to organize the public in the pulling of invasive plant species. This could be done at the proposed Furnace Pond Park. It was agreed that the Go Green Club at the high school could help out.

**Lutheran Church easement:** We will discuss this with Council on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Anthony stated that the EC should award Bell's Mansion with a plaque thanking them for their support of our Clean Communities program. A \$50 cost was proposed. Mike will check first with the Mayor so as not to duplicate efforts.

## **BILLS:**

None

## **LIAISON REPORTS:**

Board of Health: 9/9/20 minutes reviewed. Nothing to report.

Mayor and Council:

**LIAISON REPORTS (Cont.)**

**Lake Musconetcong Planning Board:**

It was reported that Mike is joining the board. Congratulations Mike. John reported that the planned lowering of the lake for the whole winter will bring about a consequent fish kill like in the past. The EC agreed to write a letter to DEP commissioner McCabe reporting such and that the lowering of the lake for this amount of time was done arbitrarily, without a board vote and in contradiction of state plan. A copy of the letter will be sent to the LMPB.

**Land Use Board:**

Bruzzese/Blk 11304/Lot 19 Variance application was discussed. No Comment. Juntos Holdings/Blk 11205/Lot 1 & 4.01 Site Plan application was discussed. The EC agreed the biggest issue is the continued increase in impervious coverage. The impervious coverage is already double of that which is allowed. Also, no Environmental Impact Statement was included which is a requirement of any site plan. Owen will write a letter stating our observations to the Land Use Board.

**Musconetcong Foundrymen Historical Society:**

**Musconetcong Sewage Authority:**

**Recreation Commission:**

**Shade Tree Commission:**

**Plaster Mill:** Anthony reported that the Council's effort at de-listing the Mill will not be continued.

**Water Quality:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM with a motion by John Rogalo and a second by Anthony Riccardi. (UC)

Respectfully submitted,

Owen Newson, Secretary