

Oakland Environmental Commission

August 6, 2019

- 1) Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM by Chair David Blanke. Carol Peterson, Lee Haymon, Erich Kamm, Nancy Krause, Alex Myers, Ali Fleeson and Calli O'Neal were present. Jeff Smyrychynski was absent without excuse. Peter Kikot has resigned. Councilmen Pat Pignatelli and Lou Levy attended.
- 2) Meeting Announcement: This meeting is being held in accordance with the open public meeting law, duly announce, advertised and posted in the Municipal Building.
- 3) Open to the Public – No public attended.
- 4) Approval of the Agenda – Agenda accepted.
- 5) Meeting Minute Review – June and July minutes were tabled to the September meeting.

6) Committee updates

a. Town Council Report – Councilman Pignatelli reported that the Ramapo River is scheduled to be classified as a C-1 stream on August 28th. A reassessment of the Sandy Beach property can be done based on the new flood elevation designations for the continuing negotiations over possible purchase of this property. Councilman Lou Levy spoke on the restoration of the Ramapo River which is being done to stabilize the river banks from the Mahwah border to the railroad trestle. Trout Unlimited is using green bio-engineering methods to create a channel for natural water flow through the river. Work has recently been done to improve the flow of Allerman Brook to prevent degradation of certain properties and Lakeshore Drive above the brook.

Chairman Blanke asked what the Environmental Commission could do to help with the river restoration. Councilman Levy said that trees need to be planted along the river bank once the river work is done. Rip-rap is in use downstream of the train trestle and gabion baskets were used along Allerman Brook, but native trees will provide the best stabilization once the channel is reestablished to prevent bank erosion. The de-shoaling deadline is October 1st. All DEP and Highland's permits have been received.

b. Green Team – The Roots for Rivers project has been completed. The Green Team is now eligible for reapplication in the coming year. Some trees or bushes are outgrowing their cases. Other cases have been damaged possibly by ATV traffic. Carole Peterson has obtained the MSDS reports on the Borough recreation fields. She is reviewing them.

c. Open-space – see the report from Councilman Pignatelli on Sandy Beach.

d. Great Oak Park - Lee Haymon reported that plans are in the works for re-paving the old parking lots. The Dog Park is on hold while Ryan Schwertfeger completes his plans for the operation and maintenance of the area and the funding of the work. Michael Guadagnino is working with the Borough on buffer lines and whether or not to use chemicals on the Great Lawn. A new liaison to the Environmental Commission is needed now that Peter Kikot has resigned both commissions.

7) Unfinished Business

- a. Water Quality Report Follow-ups – Lee Haymon and David Blanke are planning to follow up on the report.
- b. Planning Board Coordination – Ali Fleeson reported that she has been sending comments to the Planning Board secretary.

8) New Business

- a. Plastic Ordinances – The Green Team is working on ordinances and a non-plastic bag pledge initiative for residents. Non-recyclable plastics can be taken to containers at the library or to Poly-molding in Haskell. Alternatives to fertilizers are being considered to reduce the likelihood of HAB (harmful algae blooms)
- b. Sustainability Tip – Mayor& Council meeting 8/14/2019 at 7:30 PM in Council chambers. David Blanke is looking for topic suggestions for a 3 minute presentation during the public open session of Borough's public meetings. This should help residents consider recycling guidelines and other possibilities for hazardous waste disposal and sustainable life styles. David Blanke has offered to speak at the August meeting. Nancy Krause offered to speak in September about recycling. Ali Fleeson took on responsibility for October.

9) Planning Board/Board of Adjustments

- a. Current projects – Lee Haymon reported that Planning Board meetings have been quiet. Minor subdivisions for 27 Muller Rd and 79 Ryerson Ave are still pending. Zoning applications are still pending for 97 Walnut Ave., 53 Spruce St., 16 Columbia Way and 1 Mohawk Avenue.
- b. Review Plans – Plans were taken by Commissioners for review.

10. Budget Status – no change in status

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM. Next meeting is September 3rd, 2019. Minutes submitted by Jerri Angermueller, secretary.