

Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 13, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Lisa Fleming. Public notice of the meeting was read.

In attendance were Chairperson Lisa Fleming, City Liaison Diane Amico, Sue Fenili, David Lowenstern, John Pedersen, Christine Brown, and guest Anthony Coffee.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2016 meeting, with corrections as marked, was made by John Pedersen, and seconded by David Lowenstern. All were in favor.

The City Budget is still not approved, therefore, the separate line item amounts are showing as zero, with the total budget amount temporarily showing in the first line item (Office Supplies)

Regarding Site Plan reviews, John Pedersen said the East & Landis project is coming shortly and the plan shows new trees along Landis Ave.

Lisa spoke to Kathie Hicks regarding the Charter School and Kathie advised her that Planning did make many comments to the developer but no suggestions were heeded, especially regarding the detention basin. The question came up of whether electronic scans of plans were available for site plan cover sheets, surveys, landscape plans, and grading.

At the Giampietro Park Raingarden, the last of the terra-grow has been spread. The newspaper press release will be done after the sign is up and the plants start growing. Lisa had previously distributed a draft of the verbiage for the sign; the decision on materials and design is pending, with a preference toward something similar to the type and quality of the sign that Petway School placed at Willow Oak. Lisa is going to plant two more blue flags. Lisa reported the raingarden looks good for now, as it has been raining. It is too soon to week, as the new plants are still small. John Pedersen suggested a maintenance plan consisting of a rotating schedule by members.

John Pedersen and David Lowenstern cleared some area around wildflower/milkweed. John said there are many milkweed areas on roadsides and railroad tracks. Lisa said the Commission should identify specific places to focus on. It was noted that no eggs have been seen yet at the Romano Park milkweed area. Landis Park was suggested as a possible spot to plant milkweed.

Lisa said there is no laurel blooming on Maurice River Parkway as in previous years. It appears that most has been taken over by a vine that could possibly be a kind of english ivy. The NJ State Invasive Species Strike Team will be at event at Millville's Waltman Park on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Anthony and David asked for pictures of the vine to help identify.

The Mayor has set up a ceremony on Monday 6/20th for Gregory Wallace for his contribution of the footbridge at Maurice River Conservation Area. All are invited to attend. John Pedersen is taking care of the sign at the bridge, and he asked for help putting up No Hunting signs. It is noted that there are deer-stands on the City's property.

Maintenance still has not been done at the Maple Avenue entrance to Willow Oak. The fence at the Landis Avenue entrance is still broken. Another dead chicken was found. The perimeter of the field is not mowed. John Pedersen cleared one train and noted there is some poison ivy. Lisa has spoken to Dale Elbeuf, who told her there are currently several sporting events requiring the Public Works manpower.

At Burnt Mill, it was noticed that the grass is being cut even though the City had previously said it would let the area grow back natural.

There are no new educational newspaper articles, but over-mulching is still a problem. David asked that any members with articles please forward to him. He may look for another newspaper. John P. had forwarded to members a link to an article on 05/19/16 called South Jersey Trees.

Old Business: Trash on streets / Clean Communities- the problem has not gotten better. For the VDID Cruise this past weekend, no trash cans were provided. The hauler is still being messy. For the next trash contract in a few years, the Commission would like to participate in the bid-specs.

Regarding City Engineering projects, Lisa will talk to the City Engineer about the Nelson Streetscape Plan for Landis Avenue. John Pedersen had previously emailed to all the NYC Street Tree guidelines. The too-small tree planters on Landis Avenue are not working and were designed by the City Engineering office. The planters should have been bigger and moved away from the curb. Now that the street is being repaved, it is a good time to remove stumps. Diane received correspondence from Russell Swanson of the VDID regarding planting more trees in center city. John proposed doing a center-city planting of 20-30 trees per year long term. It was noted that the Commission should be quick to get involved in Engineering projects before they are already contracted out.

New Business: Lisa will keep Greenway Planning on the agenda to see where things tie in as they come up.

John had reported a dumping and provided a license plate, but the City never followed up.

Regarding stormwater issues, there is a big puddle at the Blvd. & Park Ave near Sasdelli Oil. Members discussed Philadelphia's program of building raingardens to keep stormwater out of the storm/sewer system. John suggested a demonstration project in the city-owned parking areas south of Landis Ave.

Tree Committee - Sue Fenili, John Casadia, David Lowenstern, John Pedersen

There is still one open tree maintenance contract for stump removal. There are still many stumps to be removed. Diane asked for addresses to put on the spreadsheet to provide to Asplundh, as they need this information to proceed.

A motion to adjourn was made by David Lowenstern and seconded by Sue Fenili. All were in favor.