

**HOPATCONG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
JANUARY 25, 2006**

The meeting of the Hopatcong Environmental Commission was opened by Mary Takacs at 7:37 p.m. with a statement that this meeting is held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq., annual notice having been forwarded to The New Jersey Herald, The Sunday Herald and The Daily Record and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Bernice Gleason
Sharon Gruber
Sam Hoagland
Elizabeth Mauro
Malcolm Piester
Mary Takacs

Also in attendance:
Mayor Richard Hodson

Mary Takacs led the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence. Mary announced that Connie Janowski and Marty Janowski have been resigned from the Environmental Commission and that Malcolm Piester and Sharon Gruber are our new commission members, Mary also stated that Mercedes Walker has resigned as a commission member and would like to keep her on as an alternate or an associate member.

Attached paperwork includes the Hopatcong Environmental Commission's Annual Report for 2005.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2005 MINUTES

Sharon Gruber made a motion to approve the December 1, 2005 minutes. Malcolm Piester seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2006 REORGANIZATION MEETING

Mary Takacs read the Resolution for the 2006 annual meeting dates for the Environmental Commission. Elizabeth Mauro made a motion to approve the 2006 Resolution for the annual meeting dates. Sam Hoagland seconded the motion and all were in favor with a change to the November date being changed to November 29, 2006.

Bernice Gleason made a motion to nominate Elizabeth Mauro for Deputy Chair. Sharon Gruber seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Elizabeth Mauro made a motion to nominate Sharon Gruber for Treasurer. Bernice Gleason seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Sam Hoagland made a motion to re-appoint Marie Filoso for the Recording Secretary. Elizabeth Mauro seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mary Takacs mentioned that Sam Hoagland is on the Planning Board, therefore he will be our liaison as such.

HAZMAT

December 16, 2005 – 16 Sayde Ave., tank removed, cleanup pending.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

ANJEC DUES – Bernice Gleason made a motion to pay \$260.00 for the annual ANJEC Dues. Sharon Gruber seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Sharon Gruber made a motion to consider the Walkable/Bikeable Communities workshop. Sam Hoagland seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mary reported that she received a letter from the DEP Department of Watershed Management informing us that they are replacing the Sussex County Bridge KO-7. Mayor Hodson stated that the old bridge will be cleared for walking only, but not during the winter months. Mayor Hodson also stated that if the old bridge needs paving or anything, the county will be responsible.

Mayor Hodson mentioned that the Trails Plan is scheduled for March and the NRI is close to being in draft form but there is not a date yet when this will be completed. The Environmental Commission might want to attend this meeting with the Open Space Committee. Mayor Hodson said that if you visit the Borough's website at www.hopatcong.org you can bring up the GIS Mapping and this is a work in progress site if you're interested in reviewing it.

Mr. Peter Nesse of the NJ Water Association would like to speak to the Environmental Commission about the quality of water.

Sharon Gruber made a motion to continue the Tree Contest. Sam Hoagland seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mary Takacs asked the commission members if they had any suggestions about Earth Day and Arbor Day. Elizabeth and Mary thought it would be nice if the boy scouts could plant something at Veteran's Field. Sharon Gruber suggested getting in touch with the Guidance Department at the high school and consider community service hours and projects from kids that are applying to college.

STATUS REPORTS

Treasurer - Bernice Gleason reported that we're working on the temporary budget, so there is no report.

Planning Board – Sam Hoagland is questioning the home on Lakeside Blvd. and if all the proper channels and paperwork were met with what they did on their property. Sam is

looking for the town ordinance on trees. Mary said she would get Sam a copy of the ordinance.

Malcolm Piester attended the last Mayor and Council Meeting and reported that landfill capacity in Lafayette is being filled up at a rate greater than they expected. Recycling in Sussex is not at the level that it's suppose to be. We need to get the town to enforce the recycling rules with the proper containers at the parks and fields. Malcolm is also interested in making a recommendation to regulate the pumping of septic tanks again.

Sharon Gruber suggested prioritizing what the commission wants to say in the new Newsletter. Mary recommended that the septic systems be pumped every three years and encourage people to recycle. Sharon Gruber's suggestion is that people do not litter.

ADJOURN

Sam Hoagland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Elizabeth Mauro seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Filoso
Recording Secretary