

Haworth Environmental Committee Tele-Meeting Minutes  
August 26, 2020

**In attendance (via Zoom):**

Councilwoman Liaison: Heather Wasser

Committee Members: Cynthia Soroka Dunn, Andy Anderson, Mary Beth Postman, Bruce Steinthal, and Polly Zurlini

**Not in attendance:**

Louise Reich and Mary Beth Topor

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

**Discussion:**

- The minutes from the July 29, 2020 meeting were approved.
- It was noted that the ANJEC invoice had been paid.
- The adequacy of the existing Haworth Tree Ordinance was discussed. Andy Anderson indicated that it was not well enforced. Mary Beth Postman mentioned that she believed that the River Vale, NJ tree ordinance sent to Committee members prior to the July meeting was not sufficient. Cynthia Soroka responded that the River Vale ordinance was working and that the tree canopy in Haworth was being reduced -- thus the need for changes that would protect trees in Haworth.
- The loss of water pressure in some areas of Haworth as a result of a recent storm was raised and it was noted that this event was not within the purview of the Environmental Commission.
- The feasibility of solar energy for public buildings in Haworth was again discussed. Heather Wasser indicated that the Borough Council was still waiting for an energy audit of Haworth's public buildings to be completed. Once it is completed, she indicated that she would forward a copy of it to this Committee for their review and recommendations.
- Cynthia Soroka proposed that the Committee recommend that the Haworth Council pass a resolution opposing NJ Transit's plan to build a new gas-powered power plant in the Kearney Meadowlands based on fracking for gas. Heather Wasser indicated that she would pass this recommendation on the Haworth Council at its next meeting.
- Heather Wasser then updated the Committee on the status of the Plastics Ban in Haworth. Given the lack of any real progress as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, discussion focused on postponing the effective date 1 year, to March 1, 2021. A motion recommending that the Borough Council move the effective date of the 2019 ordinance to that effect was subsequently approved via unanimous consent.
- The need for a Haworth Environmental Committee website was the next topic of discussion. This website would serve as a depository for minutes of past public Committee meetings, and could include pictures of past accomplishments of the Committee. Andy Anderson also

suggested that said website needed to include a summary of the duties and responsibilities of the Haworth Environmental Commission.

- The final topic of discussion was the need for a public electric vehicle charging station in Haworth. The nearest public electric vehicle charging stations currently are at the Demarest DPW building and at Closter Plaza. It was also noted that residents can install 220-volt chargers in their own garages for faster charges.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by Bruce Steinthal.