

## Minutes of Environmental Commission Meeting –March 27, 2023

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89653798743?pwd=YkNjeWRLV3NqV1ZLSmpVeDEwbGtldz09>

Members Present: Alisa Saporito, Andy Anderson, Atiye Caglar, Meghan Knaggs, Orr Kadec, Howard Lau (council Liaison)

Approval of minutes –

Motion to approve minutes of January 16, 2023 – Meghan Knaggs moves seconded by Andy Anderson, motion carried

Motion to approve minutes of February 20, 2023 –postponed for next meeting due to absence of Commission Secretary MaryBeth Postman

Meghan Knaggs wondered if suggestions for changes in previous meeting minutes could be done ahead of the meeting via email to streamline the process. Seems inefficient to orally discuss the changes when it could be done quickly via email ahead of the meeting especially since the changes tend to be semantics. Then at the meeting they could officially be approved and submitted to the town immediately. Minutes must be discussed and acted on in a meeting in order to comply with NJ open meeting act.

### **New business**

**Social Media** – Alisa Saporito raised the question on what rules exist for posting something on social media representing the Haworth Environmental Commission. Howard Lau says there are no restrictions, but our commission should consider nominating a moderator to oversee the postings on Facebook and other social media sites. As it stands now, all members of the commission do not have to approve a posting before it is posted on any social media platform.

**April 22 Earth Day** – Commission is interested in hosting a Haworth Cleanup day. The commission had some concerns on the quick turnaround of such an event since it is only a few weeks away. Meghan Knaggs agreed to take the lead on the event and will update the commission as it progresses. She will reach out to Dina Siciliano who was lead of last Cleanup to make sure nobody is already working on an Earth day event. She will contact DPW for the supplies and to confirm the date works with the DPW team. She will also contact our Haworth Public School liaison, Ms. Terry Leeshock to help attendance rates, handmade kids flyers and perhaps encourage 8<sup>th</sup> graders who need public service credits.

**April 28 Arbor Day** – Atiye Caglar suggested if the commission could not organize cleanup for April 22...we could always try for Arbor Day on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Howard Lau mentioned the Shade Tree Commission usually does a plant a tree campaign for Arbor Day.

**In person vs. Virtual Environmental Commission Meetings:** There was interest in returning to in person Haworth Environmental Commission meetings as some of the other town commissions have done so. There are several members of the commission who travel for work and were concerned they would miss more meetings than they could attend. Orr Kadec asked if a hybrid approach was an option ie those who could attend in person would and those who needed to be virtual could still attend. Alisa Saporito is going to check to see if hybrid meetings are an option. For now the Environmental Commission will continue virtual meetings.

**Shade tree joint committee update:** Orr Kadec says a draft ordinance has been reviewed a few times. Hopefully looking to close draft out shortly and possibly could have an update for the commission at the next meeting.

**Old Business:**

- Andy Anderson is working with Chris Statile, Haworth Municipal Engineer on a grant application for maps for the index of open areas. He is optimistic. Commission motion to approve by Andy Anderson, seconded by Atiye Caglar
- Index of open areas can't use google screenshots. Commission should take pictures of favorite areas to include. Andy Anderson is looking for help with this index and with pictures as well.
- Native plants – no update from Alisa Saporito. Should have update in the next meeting. Howard Lau thinks it is great idea, but the deer population is responsible for much of the destruction of native plants. What do we do about the deer population that are destroying it? Andy Anderson suggests Alisa Saporito should consider using Rutgers in her research [www.njaes.rutgers.edu](http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu) which has an interactive comprehensive list of deer resistant native plants.

**Report on Council Activities**

Proposed eagle scout project wants take on spotted lantern flies and put traps on town trees to capture to them. The Boy Scout is looking for money to get started. Alisa Saporito points out that the Haworth Environmental Commission doesn't have funds and wanted to know if the Boy Scout is doing a fundraiser. Howard Lau was going to check on that and report back at the next meeting.

**Report on Planning Board Activities** – No meetings to report on

**Motion to adjourn** (Andy Anderson, Meghan Knaggs seconded) at 7:58 pm

Minutes taken by Meghan Knaggs