**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, August 9, 2022**

Chairperson L.Jenssen called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm by reading the Sunshine Act statement.

**Roll Call:**

**Present -** L. Jenssen (Chair), D.Blair, N.Ferdinand, R.Geist, J.Gross, J.Kinney, B.Pickens(via zoom), K.Pickens (via zoom), J. Collins (Council Liaison), B.Thomas, Secretary

Additional Present: Kathie Schwarz

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by D.Blair, seconded by L.Jenssen, all in favor to approve meeting minutes of May 10th , 2022.

**Correspondence:** Email from K.Mastro – Public Comment from June 20th Council Meeting referencing the possibility of installing an EV charging station. It was discussed to look into a charging station at the Fire House’s lot or the lot at Peapack Gladstone Bank (corner of Rt 513), as well as cost, possible grants and how many of them.

Email from Go Hunterdon – Charge UP NJ – incentives for zero emissions vehicles & residential EV Chargers – this incentive has been posted on Califon’s website and Facebook.

Email – Waste Water Management Plans (WMP’s) from Highlands Council – this email has been forwarded to Califon’s Board of Health.

**Old Business:**

Salem Oak Seedling - two are doing well w/ L.Jenssen, will check on status of our other one w/ Mike Medea. A location for planting still needs to be decided, will consult with Parks and Recreation about location. A certificate of authenticity sign is available for us to purchase, if we choose to do that. B.Thomas to inquire about cost.

EC won the ANJEC grant for a pollinator garden at the park. L.Jenssen to consult with the grower to see what native plants are available now and what would be available in the spring. Need to speak with Parks and Recreation. Decision to plant in the fall or spring needs to be made. B.Pickens suggested prepping the area in the fall for spring planting. The project will require community involvement. Per grant requirements this project needs to be completed by June 1, 2023. Watering will be a concern, a signup watering rotation will be necessary. Announce on website and social media that this grant has been won and volunteers will be needed-B.Thomas.

Green Team – B.Thomas & L.Jenssen to pick a date in September to meet. Encourage community volunteers, including teenagers.

Open Space discussions with Planning Board Members - B. Pickens attended and shared EC’s project list. Pond remediation was on the list and it was a big hit and very well received.

Rain Gardens – Workshop/presentation was held by Amy Rowe, Rutgers Cooperative Extension on June 14th at 7:00 PM at the Califon Municipal building. Attendance was around 20 people. EC will look into hosting more workshops. Possible topics are ‘deer proof gardening”, “solar energy” and “energy efficiency”. Please contact EC with topics of interest.

Weis Mill Remnant – J.Kinney and B.Hibler attended June 20th’s council meeting. Information has been shared with Council, Lawyer and Engineer.

**New Business:**

Street Fair, Sunday, October 9th, 2022 11:00 am – 5:00 pm – separate meeting will be held in the next few weeks. B.Pickens wishes to be involved. Raritan Headwaters and Trout Unlimited are planning to have tables, hope to collaborate with them.

**Public Comment:**

Kathie Schwarz would like to donate liter signs at the park. This would fall under the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Promoting EC meetings was discussed – use of sandwich board and continue using Califon’s website and Facebook.

With no further business to attend to, motion was made by D.Blair seconded by L.Jenssen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara M. Thomas