**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES- DRAFT**

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022**

Chairperson L.Jenssen called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm by reading the Sunshine Act statement.

**Roll Call:**

**Present -** L. Jenssen (Chair), D.Blair, R.Geist, J.Kinney, B.Pickens, K.Pickens

B.Thomas, Secretary

Additional Present: Bill Kibler, Katherine Randazza

**Absent**: J. Collins (Council Liaison), N. Ferdinand, J.Gross,

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by L.Jenssen, seconded by B.Pickens, all in favor to approve meeting minutes of March 8, 2022. Motion made by L.Jenssen, seconded by D.Blair, all in favor to approve meeting minutes of April 14, 2022.

**Correspondence:** Email received May 9, 2022 from Highlands in reference to training for the new Highlands Region Interactive Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI). B.Thomas and L.Jenssen will sign up for this. This email as well as Califon’s ERI to be emailed to EC members.

**Old Business:**

Salem Oak Seedling was picked up by L.Jenssen, and is being tree sat by Mike Medea. It will be taken care of and eventually planted along with a plaque once a location has been agreed upon. There are more Salem Oak Seedlings available L.Jenssen will attempt to get more based on what’s available.

L.Jenssen submitted the ANJEC grant for a pollinator garden at the park. Lori talked with Mike Medea before submitting. Grant is for $1500 our estimate costs came in at $1505. Our costs included plant material, soil, mulch and temporary fencing. ANJEC will notify successful grantees by May 20th by email to the commissioner listed as the application contact person.

Green Team – B.Thomas & L.Jenssen to pick a date to meet and let everyone know. Plan to discuss Street Fair theme ideas

Community Tree Recovery – All 200 trees were given away and some were planted at the park. We could have given away probably 300. Volunteers seemed to enjoy the planting. The trees that were planted at the park will need to be watered and cared for.

Stream cleanup April 23rd – Lots of garbage was collected. IWS was contracted for $200 to haul it all away. Freeman’s Motors disposed of the old tires at no cost to the Borough.

Field trip to local dams in the area Saturday, June 18th tentatively.

Open Space discussions with Planning Board Members next meeting is Wednesday, May 18th. B. Pickens attended the first meeting and reported EC’s project list. The next meeting after May’s meeting will include the public.

Reusable bags – it’s been decided to “bag” this project based on the fact that the recycled bags we wanted to purchase are no longer available. Hunterdon County Solid Waste and Recycling dropped off 100 bags at the Municipal Offices. These free bags will be posted on website, and social media for pickup.

Rain Gardens – Workshop/presentation will be held by Amy Rowe, Rutgers Cooperative Extension on June 14th at 7:00 PM at the Califon Municipal building. An Eventbrite invitation has been created and will be posted on Califon website, Facebook, sandwich board and flyer to be made.

**New Business:**

Ridge & Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited – Phase 1 Environmental Study – Old Mill & Weiss Mill Dams – Bill Kibler explained what a phase 1 environmental study is. The goal of a study is to look at a piece of property and determine if there are any potential issues/environmental issues. An EA (environmental assessment) is typically broken into two phases. Purpose of Phase 1 is to look for red flags, it is a document review. If there are potential issues then a phase 2 assessment is the next step. Phase 1 is generally a paperwork exercise, which brings information to the table. It covers the county owned property surrounding the Califon Island Park (north end), includes the old Weiss Pond, Weiss mill and the property where the old mill foundation is (next to Freeman’s). It’s a barbell shaped area. J.Kinney explained why a phase one study was done, and how we got here. Quite a while ago trying to facilitate the transfer of property from the county to the borough, the borough wanted a phase one study done and the county didn’t want that done. Things did not move forward. Having an interest in having this done, Trout Unlimited had a phase one study done. A 30-year-old reported spill and vapors was included in the study, but no formal cleanup was rendered rather poor housekeeping was stated. Some issues that could come up is the mill is in disrepair, there could be some liability there and also some trees may need to be taken down. EC plan on composing a letter that will be reviewed by all members allowing for input and approval. The approved letter along with the Phase 1 Study will then be submitted to Council. J.Kinney to reach out to K.Mastro and J.Collins making sure EC is doing this the right way.

Katherine Randazza was given the opportunity to introduce herself and she looks forward to the rain garden talk.

With no further business to attend to, motion was made by L.Jenssen, seconded by D.Blair to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara M. Thomas