

2019 Environmental Commission Report to Mayor & Borough Council

Atlantic Highlands, NJ

Lenape Woods - Steward Larry Goldberg monitored the condition of the woods and reported to the EC on a regular basis. Larry removed several downed trees from the trails and did some weed wacking during the year. Larry pursued several options for consultants who might be able to provide a forest management plan.

Waterfront - Steward Paula Woods monitored the Borough's waterfront and reported to the EC on a regular basis. Paula served as the Beach Captain for Clean Ocean action beach sweeps in town on April 13 and October 26. Paula also arranged for water tests in the harbor, Avenue A beach and the two creeks.

Planning Board - The EC monitored planning board applications at the McConnell Tract, 36 Bayside Drive and 46 Bayside Drive.

Bayshore Watershed Council - On a rotating basis, members of the EC attended the meetings and reported back to the EC.

Monmouth County Environmental Council - France Karras an EC member and a county council member, reported to the EC on a regular basis.

McConnell Tract – The EC sent a letter to NJ DEP objecting to the CAFRA permit application.

Hudson Springs - Continued to meet with residents regarding the condition of the site. Held three clean-up days to remove overgrown vegetation.

Reviewed historic designation regulations. Advised Mayor and Council to carefully analyze potential restrictions of an historic designation before proceeding with an application. James Krauss attended a meeting on July 15 with a representative of the state historic preservation office, the mayor, the borough administrator and two residents. The state representative confirmed the EC's analysis of the restrictions.

The EC recommended that the borough retain a qualified engineer to review the state of the wall at the Springs and make recommendations for water control and repairs.

Watershed Ambassador - In connection with Earth Day, arranged for environmental presentations at the grammar, middle and high schools on January 29.

Film One - Had an EC table at the event, distributed compactible reusable bags and informed citizens about environmental issues and recycling.

Plastics – James Krauss met with Amy Goldsmith of Clean Water Action and Council members Crowley, Hohenleitner and Murphy to discuss a plastics ordinance and public outreach. Recommended that the borough adopt an ordinance banning single use plastic bags and plastic straws.

Balloon Release Ordinance - Recommended that the borough adopt an ordinance banning intentional release of balloons.

Master Plan - Reviewed draft master plan. Agreed on suggested changes and additions and communicated them to the planning board.

Ongoing issues - Monitored and discussed various issues including the NJ Natural Gas clean-up, the Raritan Bay pipeline proposal, the US Geological Survey, St Agnes acquisition, charges to the Open Space Fund and leaking underground storage tanks at the Race Star gas station.