

**HARDING TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
7:30 P.M. – MUNICIPAL BUILDING
May 5, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Harding Township, NJ Environmental Commission (EC) was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mr. Symonds, Chairman. The following statement was read: "This regularly scheduled meeting of the Harding Township Environmental Commission is held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice was given in announcements sent to the *Observer Tribune* and the *Daily Record*, filed with the Township Clerk and posted on various bulletin boards".

ROLL CALL

On a call of the roll, the following were present:

Members Present:	Hugh Symonds, Chair James Novotny, Vice Chair Kate Barry Alf Newlin Lisa Welsh
Excused:	William Seifert
Absent:	Brenda Catalanello Richard Clew Christina Juliano
TC Liaisons:	Nicolas Platt Christopher Yates
Also Present:	George Byrnes, Commission Secretary Mike Horne, Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Symonds made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2021, meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Novotny. On a voice vote, all eligible voters were in favor and the minutes were approved.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Mike Horne of the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge gave a presentation on Japanese Knotweed. In his talk, he explained how Japanese Knotweed is appearing all over the greater Great Swamp area and how it grows. He then went on to how the GSWR has been combating the growth and spread of Japanese Knotweed.

PROJECTS – MAJOR

Community Outreach and Engagement

Mr. Symonds stated that there were ten groups for the Spring Roadside Cleanup. He also stated that over 500 trees were given away and 100-150 tree tubes, with some donations given to the Township for the tubes.

Mr. Novotny stated that he had talked with Mr. Spelker and Mr. Pitcher at the school and they are ready to go for the tree planting project.

The Natural Web Presentation

Mr. Symonds stated that Ms. Mary Anne Borge is ready for her presentation on May 19.

Memorial Day Parade

Mr. Symonds told the commissioners that the EC has been invited to march in the Memorial Day Parade and asked as many to go as possible.

Rolling Knolls

Ms. Barry stated that there were two meetings with the Community Advisory Group asking questions about the proposals, the Fish & Wildlife Service has given their response to the proposal, and the EPA is going over all the options again.

LIAISON REPORTS

BOA – Mr. Symonds reported that the cell tower application is still continuing with the applicants planner presenting, and there was a special meeting for residential applications, with two generators and one for lot coverage.

Planning Board – Mr. Clew (c/o Mr. Clew) reported that the PB is reviewing the generator zoning ordinance and is starting to hear the application for the development behind the old AT&T building on 202.

HOST – Mr. Novotny stated that HOST discussed the fertilizing of Margetts Field.

Shade Tree – Mr. Novotny stated that there was no meeting.

Township Committee – Mr. Yates related more information on the KRE development that had been heard by the TC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Symonds opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments on items not included on the agenda. There being no further comments, the public session was closed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Environmental Commission will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 7:30PM by Zoom Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

George Byrnes

George Byrnes, Secretary
Harding Township Environmental Commission