



Township of Hillsborough

COUNTY OF SOMERSET
TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH
THE PETER J. BIONDI BUILDING
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SUSTAINABLE HILLSBOROUGH STEERING COMMITTEE
Conference Room A
Meeting Minutes
2/20/24
7:00 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Group did Pledge.
3. **NOTICE OF MEETING** - This meeting has been duly advertised according to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975 ("Sunshine Law").
4. **Oath of Office** - Two people took oath of office: Tito Sharma and Kelly Francisco.

5. Roll call:

☒ Dr. Christopher Obropta
☒ Dr. Kelly Francisco
☒ Mackenzie Smith
☒ Robin Vlamis (Alternate #1)

☒ Sabin Amanullah (Alternate #2)
☒ Tito Sharma
☐ Vacancy

☒ Deputy Mayor John Ciccarelli - TC Liaison
☐ Committeeman Lipani - TC Liaison
☐ Allison Laning-Beder - BOE Liaison
☒ Zuzana Karas - EBDO/Sustainability Director
☒ Clare Liptak (member of the public)
☒ Daniel Shepsis (member of the public)

Note: Mackenzie is relocating to South Jersey and will have to step down from the Committee.

6. **Acceptance of Minutes** - Chris moves to accept the minutes, Robin seconds. All approve.
7. **Correspondence** - None
8. **Business from the Floor**
 - a. Clare brought up the Tree Ordinance and needs help. Zuzana will speak to David Kois and ask him to reach out to Clare.
 - b. Town has new MS4 permit that requires us to adopt tree removal and replacement ordinance by a specific date. There are a few examples from groups in NJ (Watershed Institute, NJ Future, etc.) that we can look at.
9. **Old Business**

- a. Commission photo
- b. [Local Health Assessment](#) update - Robin shared [link](#) to summary report. Five high priority items were identified: Communication About Resources, Mental Health and Substance Use, Community Engagement, Chronic Disease, and Access to Healthy Food. Health Collaborative is now sharing results widely, asking for input. Report was shared at Feb TC meeting and will be discussed at March Board of Health meeting. Next steps include drafting an Action Plan to address these issues.
- c. [Municipal Water Story](#) - Chris is halfway done, wants input on community action events. Will have draft to us by next meeting.
- d. Sustainable Jersey submittal dates:
 - i. 80 Action points will be submitted Feb 25th
 - ii. Next submission date is May, followed by July.

10. New Business

- a. Wyland Water Challenge cancellation - This is a program to encourage residents to conserve water that is done annually. Wyland is revamping the program so we can do our own Pledge this year.
 - i. Group discussed rewilding efforts, and perhaps getting Township to adopt a policy that ensures DPW maintain certain meadows to encourage growth of wildflowers for pollinators
- b. [Arts in the Parks](#) event - Sidewalk painting event at AVM Park funded by grant from T-Mobile. Planned for spring time. Submissions due by March 28th.
- c. [Community Sustainability plan](#) - Township could adopt a Sustainability plan (like Woodbridge example), would require extensive outreach to and engagement with public. Zuzana will share 2009 version with the group. Daniel volunteered to assist with the effort. Deputy Mayor Ciccarelli mentioned that this could happen alongside Master Plan public outreach planning efforts.
- d. [Electric Vehicle Community Outreach](#) action - group can consider going for this action item. It would require educating residents, apt complexes, local businesses, etc. We currently have three EV charging stations: Municipal Building, Duke Farms, Sunnymede Run. Tito offered to assist with this effort.
- e. [Open Space purchase](#) - 402 acres of previous golf course was purchased (using County and Township Open Space funds) for open space. Borders Rainbow Hill hiking trails. Lots of details to still work out as to how land can be used.
- f. Seat Vacancies - We have one vacancy and now another with Mackenzie leaving. We can submit names to Zuzana, who will bring them to TC to vote on.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

NEXT MEETING: Next meeting will be Tuesday March 19th at 7pm. Robin will not be here.

Minutes submitted by Robin Vlamis.