

**MINUTES OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 22, 2025
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Wayne Cameron called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT: Mayor Galate stated “that this meeting is held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act 10:4-6 et seq. annual notice been forwarded to the New Jersey Herald, the New Jersey Sunday Herald and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.”

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Galate invited all present to salute the flag.

Oaths of Office: (Administered by Mayor Galate)

Laurie Averill – 2 Year Term expiring 12-31-2027

Alex Ioffredo – (Alternate) – 1 Year Term expiring 12-31-2025

Robert Bond – (Alternate) – 1 Year Term Expiring 12-31-2025

ROLL CALL: The Recording Secretary called the roll.

PRESENT: Wayne Cameron, Laurie Averill, Cordelia Tierno, Jonathan Taylor, Marie Galate, Alex Ioffredo, Robert Bond

ABSENT: Jamie Windt

Reorganization:

1. Election of Chairman

Jonathan Taylor made a motion to nominate Wayne Cameron as Chairman of the Environmental Commission, seconded by Laurie Averill

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Cameron, Averill, Tierno, Taylor, Galate, Bond, Ioffredo

Nays: Abstain: Absent: Windt

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Jonathan Taylor made a motion to nominate Jamie Windt as Vice-Chairman of the Environmental Commission, seconded by Wayne Cameron.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Cameron, Averill, Tierno, Taylor, Galate, Bond, Ioffredo

Nays: Abstain: Absent: Windt

3. Election of Treasurer

Jonathan Taylor made a motion to approve Laure Averill as Treasurer, seconded by Wayne Cameron.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Cameron, Averill, Tierno, Taylor, Galate, Bond, Ioffredo

Nays: Abstain: Absent: Windt

Adoption of Environmental Commission Resolutions:

1. Meeting Dates

Environmental Commission Meeting Dates 2025:

January 22, 2025

July 23, 2025

January 21, 2026 (Reorg)

February 26, 2025

August 27, 2025

March 26, 2025

September 24, 2025

April 23, 2025

October 22, 2025

May 28, 2025

November 24, 2025

June 25, 2025

December 22, 2025

All meetings are Wednesday (unless noted otherwise) and start at 7:00 pm at Borough Hall

Jonathan Taylor made a motion to accept the 2024 Environmental Commission meeting dates, seconded by Wayne Cameron.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Cameron, Averill, Tierno, Taylor, Galate, Bond, Ioffredo

Nays: Abstain: Absent: Windt

2. Designation of Official Newspaper

New Jersey Herald/New Jersey Sunday Herald shall be the Official Newspaper of the Environmental Commission.

Jonathan Taylor made a motion to accept the Official Newspaper designation, seconded by Alex Ioffredo.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Cameron, Averill, Tierno, Taylor, Galate, Bond, Ioffredo

Nays: Abstain: Absent: Windt

MINUTES: A motion is in order to approve the meeting minutes of December 19, 2024.

Jonathan Taylor made a motion to approve the December 19, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Marie Galate.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Cameron, Averill, Tierno, Taylor, Galate, Ioffredo

Nays: Abstain: Bond Absent: Windt

BILLS:

Shred-It	Shred Day	\$1825.60
Home Depot	Decorations	\$261.91 (already Paid)
Home Depot	Decorations	\$141.25 (already Paid)

There was a discussion concerning the Shred-It bill and what budget it will be taken from (2024 or 2025). It was suggested the remaining Clean Communities balance be used to pay for this bill.

Jonathan Taylor made a motion to approve the January 22, 2025 bills, seconded by Alex Ioffredo.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Cameron, Averill, Tierno, Taylor, Galate, Bond, Ioffredo

Nays: Abstain: Absent: Windt

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Points system for Public Education and Outreach Activities

Chairman Cameron spoke about the point system needed for Stormwater Management. He wanted members to review the list for items that have been already done, as well as the items planned for 2025. This list needs to be sent to the Borough Administrator.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Shred Day 2025
2. Town Wide Clean-Up
3. Tree Saplings (Arbor Day 4-25-25)

Chairman Cameron said he spoke with Pat Mason and the dumpster for the Town Wide Clean-Up day needs to be reserved two weeks in advance. He said typically there is only funds to have one clean-up day, but if a grant is acquired there could possibly be a second one for the year.

Chairman Cameron suggested members reach out to find any organization that would donate saplings for Arbor Day. Mr. Taylor suggested using one of the plots at the Community Garden to start growing our own for future use.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Galate provided the Commission members with the minutes from the Sussex County Agriculture Development Board. She will forward minutes to the commission as they are supplied from Sussex County.

Mayor Galate also spoke about a letter she received from Sandra Sedeyn regrettfully resigning from the Environmental Commission.

Alex Ioffredo made a motion to regrettfully accept the letter, seconded by Mayor Galate.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Cameron, Averill, Tierno, Taylor, Galate, Bond, Ioffredo

Nays: Abstain: Absent: Windt

DISCUSSION:

Rob Bond asked about the Trail Loop, and if anyone had reached out to Hudson Farm yet. Mayor Galate said she would ask the Borough Administrator to reach out to them for a meeting. She suggested the Trail subcommittee meet next month at 6:30 before the start of the Environmental meeting at 7:00. She said there would need to be a presentation made to the Council.

Ms. Averill spoke about a handout she provided concerning the possible rain garden at Innis Road and asked for approval to have Rutgers survey the property.

Mayor Galate said that would need to be brought to the Borough Engineers attention first for their approval.

Ms. Averill then spoke about another possible location for a rain garden at the Ambulance Squad.

Mr. Bond spoke about a waterfall by Crescent Cove, and that area being cleaned up. There was a discussion concerning who owns that and the surrounding properties.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: - Any Environmental Issue/Concern:

Public commentary is limited to one comment, no more than 5 minutes.

Dennis Snyder, Chief of the ambulance squad, spoke in support of having a rain garden on the property. He said the squad members would maintain it, and it would be very beneficial to catch the salt from the roads before going into the wetlands behind their property. Mr. Snyder said eventually they would like to add benches for people to sit as well. This proposal would also need to be sent to the Borough Engineer for approval as well.

Mr. Taylor said this upcoming weekend members are meeting to take down the rest of the holiday decorations. Mayor Galate said she received many compliments on the decorations, especially those on the corner at the light. She suggested having decorations for each holiday on that corner.

Alex Ioffredo made a motion to approve spending up to \$125 on supplies for making a heart for Valentines Day, seconded by Jonathan Taylor.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Cameron, Averill, Tierno, Taylor, Galate, Bond, Ioffredo

Nays: Abstain: Absent: Windt

ADJOURNMENT: **Chairman Cameron** will request a motion to adjourn the meeting