



**Hamilton Environmental Commission**  
2090 Greenwood Ave., Hamilton, NJ 08609  
Sabrina Bowling, Secretary  
Telephone 609-890-3674  
Email: [Sbowling@hamiltonnj.com](mailto:Sbowling@hamiltonnj.com)

**To: Mayor Jeff Martin  
Township Council**

**From: John H. Balletto  
Chairman**

**Date: January 18, 2022**

**Subject: 2021 Annual Report of the  
Hamilton Township Environmental Advisory Commission**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:56A and the Ordinances of the Township of Hamilton, the following is a summary of the activities of the Hamilton Township Environmental Advisory Commission (Commission) for the year 2021.

The Commission has the responsibility for the protection, development or use of natural resources, including water resources, and open spaces located within the Township.

Membership of the Commission in 2021 consisted of the following individuals:

- John Balletto, Chairman - Regular
- Robert Benjamin - Regular
- Clinton J. Griggs - Regular
- Haig Kasabach - Regular - Planning Board Liaison
- Rodney Richards - Regular
- Karl Vetter - Regular
- Ann Wolf - Regular
- JoAnn Bruno - Alternate Member
- Nicole Provost- Alternate Member
- Theodore Buehler – Green Team
- Melissa Greenberg – Green Team
- Cathy Wagner – Green Team
- Carrie Feuer - Mayor's Representative
- Richard Tighe - Council Liaison
- Sabrina Bowling - Commission Secretary

Activities for the Commission and the Green Team were severely restricted due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The January through April Commission and Green Team meetings were conducted via ZOOM. Environmental awareness and involvement programs were impacted by the restrictions of the pandemic.

With the approval of the Administration, an additional member was appointed to the Commission and two new members were recruited for the Green Team.

### **Sustainable NJ Certification**

The Commission and Green Team continued to work on Actions and activities associated with maintaining our Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certification. Clint Griggs, along with Rob Poppert and Sabrina Bowling worked on the documentation for submitting our application for re-certification. Several factors impacted our efforts to qualify for our Bronze re-certification. As a result, the Commission fell short of the needed Priority Actions needed for re-certification. Efforts are under way and will continue to fill in the missing requirements in order to re-attain Bronze Certification in 2022. Additionally, we will also be looking ahead to the next level, Silver and formulating plans to achieve that certification.

Hamilton Township is pleased to have joined the Mercer County Sustainability Coalition. Our green Team will partner with ten Green Teams from Mercer County to discuss and share ideas and information. Rodney Richards is our contact with the coalition.

### **Annual Stream Cleanup**

In 2021 we were again able to plan and execute our expanded Land and Stream Cleanup, annually held in April. In spite of the pandemic we had a sizeable turnout of volunteers for this environmental effort.

### **Public Environmental Education**

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Commission suspended the environmental awareness and involvement programs for 2021.

### **Pollinator Grant Program**

The Commission and Green Team applied for and was awarded an ANJEC Grant to plan and promote Pollinator Gardens in Hamilton Township. Robert Benjamin and several Green Team members have been heavily involved with moving this new program forward. The committee has met with PTA representatives from several Township schools who are interested in the program.

## **Community Garden**

During 2021, the Commission and Green Team began working on an ambitious Community Garden initiative with the support of the Township Administration. JoAnn Bruno is chairing this effort with the assistance of several members. Field trips have been taken to view and meet with other municipalities who have launched community gardens. Meetings have been held with Public Works and members of the community that have an interest in the program.

## **Miscellaneous Topics**

The Commission was represented at Hamilton's OctoberFest this year. Our focus was on recycling and proper disposal of non- recyclables. Green Team Member Cathy Wagner held festival attendees attention as she explained the ins and outs of our current recycling programs. Reusable shopping bags were handed out to OctoberFest attendees.

The Commission continued its annual membership with the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC). Members of the Commission attended training sessions sponsored by ANJEC.

A Rain Garden planning session was conducted by Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service for Hamilton residents who expressed an interest in planning and planting their own residential rain garden.

The Commission is actively working to update the Hamilton Township Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) with the cooperation of the Township Administration.

Members of the Commission participated in the Delaware River Cleanup in September.

## **Land Use Applications Reviewed**

The Commission conducted 34 Development Site Plan reviews as follows at its monthly meetings:

January - 4	July - 3
February - 1	August - 2
March - 3	September - 2
April - 6	October - 4
May - 0	November - 0
June -8	December - 1

The Commission submitted comments on 16 applications to the Land Use office:

1. Matrix Realty INC. @ Cabot Dr. for a warehouse and office
2. 1384 Yardville LLC @ Yardville Ham. Sq. Rd. for a warehouse
3. Matrix Realty INC @ 524 Rt. 130 for a warehouse
4. Polaris Executive Center LLC @ Cabot Dr. for Apartment Complex
5. BCIF Hamilton Distribution Center LLC @ 646 Rt. 130 for 2 warehouses
6. PRIII/LEG Hamilton Industrial LLC @ 861 Sloan Rd. for a warehouse
7. 2144 E. State St Ind. LLC @ 2144 E. State St. for freight forwarding operation
8. Liquid Outdoor Media LLC @ 75 So. Gold Dr. for billboard
9. Liquid Outdoor Media LLC @ 3666 Klockner Rd. for billboard
10. Lamont Ave LLC @ 11 Lamont Ave for 15 townhomes
11. Uncle Pete's Rd. Farm @ 33 Uncle Pete's Rd. for barn
12. 1531 & 1651 Klocker Rd @ Klockner Rd. for rental units
13. Mercerville Equities LLC @ 249 Rt. 33 for Chipotle Restaurant
14. Amber Crystal Enterprises LLC @ 20 Nami Lane for garage & pole barn
15. BDA Hamilton LLC @ 121 First Ave. for truck parking
16. AZ Hamilton LLC @ 2735 So. Broad St. for Auto Zone

In addition to reviewing and commenting on regular monthly development applications, the Commission undertook in-depth reviews and investigated three major ongoing development projects in the Township.

The Congoleum site documentation was thoroughly reviewed and a memo was sent to the Land Use office detailing the condition of the property and the concerns regarding the proposed warehouse on the site.

Several Commission members attended a public meeting concerning the proposed cleanup of the former Nearpara Rubber Factory site. A copy of the Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives for the site was obtained and distributed to Commission members. The Commission will continue to track the progress of the site remediation and attend any future public meetings.

Township Officials expressed an interest in obtaining a property on Kuser Road for which an application had been submitted for a proposed warehouse that was subsequently denied. Karl Vetter reviewed the application and environmental documents and compiled a detailed memo on the environmental conditions on the site. This memo was sent to the Administration and members of the Town Council.

: Kathlyn Monzo, Business Administrator  
Councilman Richard Tighe  
Fred Dumont, Director P&E  
Samantha Brown, Township Engineer  
Eileen Gore, Township Clerk  
Carrie Feuer, Liaison, Director, WPC  
Environmental Commission Members  
ANJEC