

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission April 16, 2013

- ATTENDEES** **The following commission members were present:**
Ed Delia, Leonard Berkowitz, Richard Leister, Robin Callaghan
- Meeting Called To Order Rich called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm
- Minutes Approved minutes from April 1
- Eagle Scout Project No news
- Stream De-snagging The Town Council agreed that the 100,000 saved by not doing a "Bulk Trash Collection" will be used for Hazardous Tree Removal and stream de-snagging.
- Recycling It appears as though there has not been any publicity regarding the single-stream recycling program. Ed is going to touch base with Barbara in the town hall to see what the plans are beyond posting this on the website to inform the community. Possible outlets are: Use recycling money to send a post card to residents; publish in newspapers; PTA; have vendor send a postcard or put something in the quarterly bills to residents for trash service; TV 36; town bulletin board; library. Ron L. to inquire with Great Northern and Hardware store to investigate selling recycle bins at Town Fair June 1, 2013.
- Community Forestry Grant Rich spoke with Bocko and Steve Shuckman. He has some questions on how the grant money can be used. Steve can handle the revisions to the plan. Rich will let Bob know he has to email Steve with the terms and conditions , then Steve will evaluate and prepare a proposal. He can also look at the hazardous trees and prepare a plan for their removal.
- Anti Idling Campaign Chief Mathis will write a memo to delineate an idling policy for police cars. We have not seen it yet. Police cars have a need to keep idling due to electronic equipment that is powered by the car batteries. Rich spoke to the folks in Verona who stated that the police in their community were exempt from their anti idling

program.

Stephanie was not present to update progress with meetings with the principal of the middle school to discuss an educational campaign.

Preservation of Open Space

Passed by Town Council on April 9.

Downtown Dev. Committee.

Ron Loria not available to discuss.

Membership

Ed discussed a potential member who he will email and invite to our next meeting(Dave). Dave has offered to assist him with stream desnagging. Use BH Street Fair to promote.

Masterplan

The master plan is not due for an update for several years and is therefore not being revised at this time.

Community Garden

Ed reported that he spoke with Tom Barton who liked the idea and location. He will walk the area and create a plan with Tom. He will take some photos of Warren's garden. We should consider doing a survey for interest. Len will discuss with YMCA about whether or not they are interested in taking some ownership.

Communications Committee

.No Update

New Business
1st Annual
BH Street Fair

Chamber of Commerce and Rotary are hosting a June 30th Street fair. Contact info for reservation provided during Chamber of Commerce / Mayors Breakfast. For info contact events@jcpromotions.info Need to nail down volunteers before we commit to participating and explore sale of recycling bins for promoting new mixed recycling initiative. Ron will discuss using Berkeley Hardware as a source vendor. Robin and Len volunteered, and Robin will follow with signing us up for the event.

GL Fundraiser

Consideration to donate basket for a tree or a rain barrel.
No Update.

Plans

28 Forest Ave

The Environmental Commission has reviewed the application for variance for 28 Forest Ave. The site will increase impervious coverage by .2%. A small amount, but we suggest that the runoff from the covered deck be directed to a dry well or other suitable means to recharge groundwater. These small increases add up.

CVS

We got an updated landscaping plan and Richard will review by cross referencing the previous plan to see what has changed.

Arbor Day and Earth Day

The saplings have arrived and Richard will distribute them on Earth Day.

Peppertown Park

Since the county is organizing volunteers for May 1, Richard asked if 10 volunteers could go to Peppertown Park and weed. No reply as of this date.

Cell phone recycling

The Project Graduation Committee will be putting collection bins in all of the schools for Earth Day. The HS environmental club is making the posters.

New business

We discussed CSIP Grant: Community Stewardship Incentive Program. We could use this for the recovery of tree resources up to 20K – there is a 5/31 application deadline. Len will follow up.

CLOSING

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, April 16, 2013
Robin Callaghan