

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission May 6, 2013

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

Ed Delia, Leonard Berkowitz, Richard Leister, Robin Callaghan, Kevin Hall, Deborah Plotnik

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm

Minutes

Approved minutes from April 16

Eagle Scout Project

No news

Stream De-snagging

Kevin Hall reported that Gabe Gluck of the County Parks Department contacted him on stream desnagging. Mr. Gluck says the county wants to work with Berkeley Heights on this matter. The County apparently wanted a parking lot and boat launch in the County Park next to Mt Carmel, but had encountered objections. Now the County wants to revisit the subject. Ed Delia gave a map he made of downed trees along the river to Bob Bocchino. Kevin Hall will meet with Mr. Gluck to discuss strategy and tactics.

Recycling

There does not appear to have been any publicity on the new recycling program other than on the Township website. Richard will recontact Bob Bocchino on the subject.

Community Forestry Grant

Tom Bocko has received a grant to redo the CFMP. Steven Schuckman is hired as the consultant to rewrite the plan. But to have an approved plan, the Township must have at least two people with a total of 8 CEUs. The Township did not submit CEUs in 2012. ANJEC classes could count toward CEUs so Len, Richard and Ron will follow up.

Anti Idling Campaign

Still waiting for memo from police chief. Ed suggested there could be a memo for DPW. Kevin will follow up. No news from Stephanie, who was not present.

Sustainable Jersey

Len reviewed a chart showing 17 tasks which have been done in the past and must be renewed and 8 potential new tasks (down to 7 since the school solar project is not eligible). 13 tasks, totaling 130 points are being addressed by current programs and we have 185 carry-over points. We need a total of 350 by June 2014.

Len pointed out that his chart is highly abbreviated as to requirements and commissioners handling tasks should carefully review requirements at the Sustainable Jersey website.

-Helen volunteered to check on the status of A3 "school based energy programs", B1 education for sustainability. and to check on the existence of any vegetable gardens at the schools.

-Robin volunteered to handle A7 Building Healthy Communities, and A9 Water Conservation Education.

-Deborah volunteered to handle A5 Green development Checklist. We need to collect the checklists as they come through.

-Ron and Ed volunteered to do conservation easement inspections. Len will get them the easement documentation.

-Len will handle Direct Install Outreach.

-Richard volunteered to double check Green Fair requirements (B2).

Downtown Dev. Committee.

Ron was interviewed on channel 36. DDC is focusing on the Township clocks, a project which has some support from merchants. DDC is also developing a signage policy. No news on pervious surfaces.

Membership

We need to look for new members. The street fair may be an opportunity.

Community Garden

Len and Ed met with Y representatives Tiffany Escott and Janet Smith, Ms. Smith is leading the Summit Community Garden. Some issues to consider: rental fee to pay for water; donations from merchants; garden committee; expenses for fence, spigots, raised beds; parking. Richard to check if there is guidance from Rutgers Extension service.

New Business
1st Annual

BH Street Fair, June 30

Street Fair to run from 10 am to 5 pm. Cost is \$50 for 10x 12 space. Robin to supply canopy. Richard to provide sign/banner. Reasons to participate: promote EC, seek members, promote recycling, rain barrels, and community gardens. Have literature on invasive plants and tree volcanoes. Have a giveaway?

Plans

57 Hampton

No comment

CVS

Updated landscaping plan has more native plants and no invasives so there is no comment.

7-11 Signage at 417 Springfield Ave

EC requests trees be planted on side of building.

CLOSING

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, May 18, 2013

Richard Leister