

**Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
April 21, 2014**

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

- ✓ Ed Delia
- ✓ Richard Leister
- ✓ Leonard Berkowitz
- ✓ Ron Loria
- ✓ Helen Kirsch
- ✓ Deborah Plotnik
- ✓ Guest: Dave Ogens

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM

Minutes

Minutes from the April 07, 2014 meeting were approved.

Stream De-snagging

No update

**Open Space Stewardship
Grant (ANJEC)**

Has been submitted.

Downtown Dev. Committee.

Rutgers Extension Services has hired a Urban Landscape Architect and Richard will pursue plans or standards that this individual may be willing to offer.

Recycling

R. Loria will coordinate with Bob Bocchino to discuss purchase and funding for recycle bins around town (including Peppertown Park) and incorporate BH Township contract recycler role in doing additional pick up.

Community Forestry Plan

Need to press for state approval R. Leister to follow-up with Stephen Schuckman.

State Program -Arbor Day Plantings

Richard has distributed trees to elementary schools.

Anti-Idling Campaign

Signs have been ordered.

Sustainable Jersey

Brown Field Inventory has been reviewed by Len. Mill Master Onyx and Stanford Drive appear to be the priorities.

Ron Loria will follow up with Amy Wagner on whether soil samples have been taken regarding town owned property of Stanford Drive. And will talk with local contact as to status of Silcox Miller (now Extra Space Storage).

R. Loria will work with Ed to publish photos taken from their survey of Conservation easements to prepare a word document documenting this requirement for points by end of April.

Several other assignments remain outstanding and this is of concern.

Green development check list needs to be completed and implemented. The pending deadline of June 8th for resubmission of points for Silver Status may prevent use of this item for qualifying points.

Community Garden

Littel Lord site:

Christine reports via e mail we should put together plan for Littel site and focus on this going forward.

Helen posed the option of fields opposite Lord Little... Ed Delia will walk it in the near future and will advise.

Pepper Town Park

Concern of damage to trees remains an issue for clock installation. This will be communicated back to BHDBC by R. Loria.

GL High School EC

No activity for now.

June 29 Fair

Re-cycle, Rain Barrel / Garden and tree replenishment plan (suggested by Helen) are of interest.

Plans

86 Orion Rd – Recommendation were to Build Rain Garden- Resident responded they received approvals from town to pipe storm water runoff to the stream on Township property just North of their land. This arrangement was approved by the Township. In 2007. Commission plans to look at storm water ordinance once through Silver Status approval with Sustainable NJ.

Passaic River Park Clean up June 13, 2014

L'Oreal plans to due clean up as a public service project Len suggest area off Springfield needs some path maintenance.

New Business

Bob Bocchino asked if tree fund could be used for tree maintenance.

Len and Richard to determine how precise the ordinance is to replace trees where developers have had them removed and to use these funds for that purpose also.

Motion was made by Ron Loria and approved by Commissioners to draft a Training plan for town employees on proper tree installation and pruning.

Site Plans

Connell has made a Application of Waiver to previous Site Plan Approval; Connell agreed to install drought tolerant shrubs beneath solar canopies which they have been unsuccessful in maintaining. Under Gold LEED certification they claim they are prevented from watering plants. It is unclear as to what shrubs were planted. Len suggested the option to plant trees elsewhere on property and for more detail on what species they have used unsuccessfully. Connell Site plan has been submitted for Hotel. Len does not recall EC being asked to review tree removal in past. Ordinance requires EC to walk property. Len and Richard will also investigate shrubs under Solar Canopy during site walk. Richard will also review proposed plant list for Hotel Property.

CLOSING

Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, April 21, 2014
By Ron Loria. Next Meeting May 5, 2014.