

# Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission

## May 5, 2014

### ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

- ✓ Ed Delia
- ✓ Richard Leister
- ✓ Leonard Berkowitz
- ✓ Kevin Hall

Guests:

- ✓ Christine Lewis
- ✓ Helen Kirsch

### Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

### Minutes

Minutes from the April 21, 2014 meeting were approved with one correction to be worded by **Richard**.

### Stream De-Snagging

Kevin reported that the stream desnagging is two thirds complete and that there is a line item in this year's budget to keep up with the desnagging. **Kevin** will investigate the status of the Passaic River desnagging grant and report back at the next meeting.

### Downtown Dev. Committee.

**Richard** is still trying to get input from Rutgers on Streetscape Guidelines. Kevin said we need to think about how this work will relate to the master plan.

### Recycling

There was discussion about styrofoam recycling. Len was told by Giordanos that they do not want styrofoam. **Len** will check with Bob Bocchino as to whether styrofoam is in the contract. After clarification, we will try to get the high school environmental club to reinstitute separate styrofoam recycling events.

Len drafted a one pager on single stream recycling and gave to Linda Cavanaugh for hopeful mailout with the tax bills.

### Community Forestry Plan

Our plan was received by the state but is still not approved for unknown reasons. **Richard** will follow up with Steve Schuckman and/or NJDEP to resolve this matter in the next few days. Len said that we are running out of time to get credit for Sustainable Jersey.

### Arbor Day

Richard delivered the trees to the schools. Dan Bernier will pick up the remaining saplings for his scouts to plant in the Watchung Reservation.

<b>Anti-Idling Campaign</b>	Eight more signs have been received. <b>Stephanie Z</b> will try to get the schools to install them with their maintenance staffs.
<b>Sustainable Jersey</b>	Len circulated the list of BH brownfields and suggested prioritization. There were no further comments by commissioners so <b>Len</b> will forward it to the township seeking comments especially on the prioritization and any omissions. Commissioners discussed the very slow progress at the Millmaster Onyx site. Christine said that there may be grant funds available through DEP for brownfield cleanup.
<b>Community Garden</b>	<p>We only have one month until the submission deadline. Writeups are pending from <b>Richard, Ron, Mike D, Donna Felezzola, and Robin</b>. Len asked for help in contacting Robin. <b>Richard</b> agreed to call her.</p> <p>The Township Council would not make a decision on allowing a 5 year tenure at the Snyder Avenue site, based on the information available. It is now too late to have the garden working this year. <b>Christine</b> is concentrating on determining the legalities of the Littell-Lordsite in view of the tenant's lease, the original deeded terms, and the Green Acres rules. Dan Palladino will help and <b>Ed</b> will ask Ana Minkoff to find township records on the property transfer and the lease. If further sites are needed, the property next to the Kings shopping center could be considered.</p>
<b>Scout Projects</b>	No discussion
<b>ANJEC</b>	We did not get awarded one of the open space grants. There were 60 applicants and only 14 were funded – mostly “shovel ready” projects.
<b>Sustainable Land use Resolution</b>	Was passed by Council.
<b>Low Impact Checklists</b>	Deborah prepared a 2 page draft. <b>Commissioners</b> are asked to read and discuss at the next meeting. <b>Kevin</b> will discuss the use of such a document with Bob Miller of the Board of Adjustment and with the Planning Board.
<b>June 29 Fair</b>	The sense of the commissioners was to participate. Christine and Kevin have canopies. We could invite Giordanos ( <b>Richard</b> will ask Marlene S. to do so), and have a handout about the Passaic River Path. <b>Ed</b> was asked to find out the deadline for reserving booth space.
<b>Tree Pruning</b>	<b>Richard</b> will write the Administration about the need for DPW employees to be trained in proper techniques of tree

pruning.

**Stormwater Ordinance**

Not discussed.

**Plans**

106 Baker: Commissioners were unanimous in recommending rejection of this application by the Board of Adjustment due to the excessive increase in impervious coverage. In addition, the property is in a recharge area and the pool structure would be under the dripline of the preserved tree buffer – leading to its likely demise.

**CLOSING**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. The **next meeting will be May 19.**

Respectfully Submitted, May 6, 2014 by Len Berkowitz.