

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission

May 19, 2014

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

- ✓ Ed Delia
- ✓ Richard Leister
- ✓ Leonard Berkowitz
- ✓ Deborah Plotnik
- ✓ Ron Loria

Guests:

- ✓ Christine Lewis
- ✓ Haley Berliner (GLHS Environmental Club)

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Minutes

Minutes from the May 5, 2014 meeting were approved, with one correction to “header date” which Ron L. corrected and forwarded to **Richard**.

Stream De-Snagging

Stream de-snagging continues and Ron L. noted stream behind Columbia Park has been completed. **Kevin** was not available to report back on the status of the Passaic River de-snagging grant.

Downtown Dev. Committee.

Richard is still trying to get input from Rutgers on Streetscape Guidelines.

Recycling

Linda Cavanaugh will send (Lens drafted one pager) on single stream re-cycling with town newsletter. There was discussion about Styrofoam recycling. **Len** asked Bob Bocchino for copy of contract. After clarification, we will try to get the high school environmental club to reinstitute separate Styrofoam recycling events.

Community Forestry Plan

2014 Plan approved by John Schmidt Assistant Grant Administrator NJ DEP department of Forestry. Commission has been asked to put together documents for reimbursed expenses.

Arbor Day

Richard will check with Dan Bernier where saplings were actually planted for recent Arbor day Celebration.

Anti-Idling Campaign

Eight more signs have been received. Waiting on **Stephanie Z.** to get the schools to install them with their maintenance staffs.

Sustainable Jersey

Len circulated the list of BH brown fields to the township seeking comments especially on the prioritization and any omissions. No

comments have been received as of to date.

We only have one month until the submission deadline. Write-ups are pending from **Richard, Ron, Mike D, Donna Felezzola, and Robin.**

Community Garden

Christina received communications from Steward of Union County Green Acres. It was stated that Green Acres are for keeping land for recreation or open to public. Green Acres rules are being considered when considering improvements and grant money for repair of homestead at Litel Lord site for community garden. USDA has a program called “The Peoples Garden”. It provides a Garden to Model and is a Nationwide initiative.

Christine has prepared a budget as requested by Township Committee and will forward to Kevin Hall for input.

Christine would like to promote a presentation and organize speakers on Community Gardens in conjunction with BHEC.

Scout Projects

No discussion

ANJEC

We were not awarded one of the open space grants. There were 60 applicants and only 14 were funded – mostly “shovel ready” projects.

Low Impact Checklists

Deborah reported and discussed some details of her draft with input from the Commission, Christine recommends Green Modeling Publication as a reference. **Kevin** will discuss the use of such a document with Bob Miller of the Planning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board; Richard will check ordinance on storm water retention.

Posts on BHEC website are planned to provide references with a glossary of terms. Christine suggests the development of Greenways as part of Developers responsibilities.

June 29 Fair

The sense of the commissioners was to participate. Christine and Kevin have canopies. We could invite Giordano’s (**Richard** waiting on Marlene S. to do so), and have a handout about the Passaic River Path. Ed reported space is available and requires a \$60.00 fee. June 29th is scheduled date. Raffle green cleaning products, provide info on rain gardens, list of Green Project List, and provide maps on Passaic River Park are all options of interest by the Commission Members.

Grants

A Green Acres Grant available, deadline in July, Richard is unsure if

matching funds are required. Greening Union County Grant is due, Rich will follow up with Tom Bocko.

Storm water Ordinance

See Low Impact Check List

Plans

No Plans

Passaic River Park

L'Oreal plans to provide clean up June 13, 2014
Betty Ann Kelly suggest repair of footbridge mooring near Soccer fields and Ed may have equipment to assist, other priority should to enlist a group to repair bird houses. General Survey work originally presented by Dan Talcott of the Passaic River Trail was reviewed and discussed. Betty Ann Kelly was approached about the Robbins Brook Bridge Project and indicated that this requires an engineering study and is not a viable scout project.

Tree Pruning

Tree pruning suggestions are under review by Len and Christina and plan to request that the town council direct recommendations to the DPW with copy to engineering.

CLOSING

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. The **next meeting will be June 2.**

Respectfully Submitted, June 2, 2014 by Ron Loria