

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission

June 2, 2014

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

- ✓ Ed Delia
- ✓ Richard Leister
- ✓ Leonard Berkowitz
- ✓ Ron Loria
- ✓ Jamie Salazar
- ✓ Ron Loria

Guests:

- ✓ Christine Lewis
- ✓ Dave Ogden's

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Minutes

Minutes from the May 19, 2014 meeting were approved, with one correction's which Ron L. corrected and forwarded to **Richard**.

Stream De-Snagging

Kevin was not available to report back on the status of the Passaic River de-snagging grant.

Downtown Dev. Committee.

No activity Reported.

Recycling

Nothing to report.

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. Meetings "in kind hours" were tallied as part of requirements; Steve Schuckman submitted invoice to Tom Bocko for his service rendered and T. Bocko in turn submitted to state. Town and Commission Members CEUs are being tallied for inclusion.

Arbor Day

Dan Bernier Scouts planted saplings in Watchung Reservation Deserted Village.

Anti-Idling Campaign

Stephanie Z. will pick up 4 of 8 signs for Columbia. Remainder should go to high school **Still TBD**

Sustainable Jersey

All Points were submitted May 30th for approval. We should

hear back in July on award and hopefully receive once again, as a Municipality, Silver Status under Sustainable NJ. We would still have an opportunity to correct any perceived deficiencies. We will need someone else to enter the town's utility data in the future.

Community Garden

Christine Lewis continues to explore grants for Community Garden (see below).

Christine has prepared a budget as requested by Township Committee.

Christine is formalizing a presentation for Town Council Members and will forward to Kevin Hall for input. Date TBD.

Scout Projects

No discussion

Low Impact Checklists

Final Draft was provide by Deborah to Len and Richard and will be forwarded to the group for review.

Kevin to review with Bob Miller of the Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board;

June 29 Fair

Marlene S. emailed Giordano's to participate (awiting Response

Maps of Passaic River Park are expected from the County and will be made available as handouts. Wild flower seeds may be available from Morris county Park Commission; Christine will look into this. Ron L. to follow-up with Deborah on source of rain barrel and info on class offerings as possible raffle Items.

Grants

Christine researched the Sandy Disaster Relief Fund for Historical sites. This may be something town could apply for to do tree work at Littell Lord on trees damaged by Sandy. Christine has received one of two proposals thus far for tree removal at Little Lord site. Len (BHEC) will pass along grant info to Linda Cavanaugh. **An expression of interest is due by June 30.**

Green Acres Grant discussed last meeting apparently favors towns with open space funds (which BH does not have) And, after review by Len it did not appear to be of value for as the offering was primarily for low interest loans that are available to Grant recipients

Atlantic Health Care Grants were reviewed by Christine and under consideration by BHEC for use toward Community Garden which may meet requirements. Len and Christine will review. Submission is due by June 16.

Greening Union County Grant is due; Tom Bocko may move away from current supplier for reasons of questionable

quality, however Richard noted that success of tree growth relies on homeowners willingness to water new plantings.

\$500.00 grant awarded to Terry Ryan by her employer American Express, grant is for children; Christine suggested funds could go toward child size gardening equipment for the Community Garden or to develop Wild flower gardens at school for Monarch Butterfly Habitat (Milkweed) important to butterfly survival (food) and migration.

Storm water Ordinance

Richard's review of storm water ordinance is underway to determine if property owners are able to discharge to water way. As per Richard the ordinance is a very large document and appears geared toward large development and minimize impervious surface to maintain natural ground water recharge.

Plans

564 Snyder Ave. Does not exceed impervious surface rather a continuation of non conformance for setbacks. Recommended disconnect of downspout to street if it exists. Second story will have new gutter and means to hold this water on the property will be advised using a rain garden type structure.

Passaic River Park

L'Oreal plans to provide clean up Friday June 13, 2014 9AM to 12PM. Ron, Len, Dave, Christine, Richard, and Joyce Laudise will donate time to supervise.

Tree Pruning

Tree pruning suggestions were reviewed by Len and Christina; and Richard will send to DPW with copies to tree officer and town council.

CLOSING

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm. The **next meeting will be June 16, 2014.**

Respectfully Submitted, June 3, 2014 by Ron Loria

New Business

DPW and Tree commissioner wants to use tree planting fund for doing things like maintaining and taking down trees/ pruning. Pruning of new trees or training of pruning would be considered. Mr. Bocko suggest cleaning up scrub and replace with plantings near railroad. Richard will ask to have them formally present a plan; however commission does not believe these funds should be used for tree removal. We are unclear of their desire.