

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission July 7, 2014

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

- ✓ Ed Delia
- ✓ Richard Leister
- ✓ Leonard Berkowitz
- ✓ Ron Loria
- ✓ Kevin Hall
- ✓ Deborah Plotnik
- ✓ Stephanie Zecca

Guests: Christine Lewis

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm

Minutes

Minutes from the June 16, 2014 meeting were approved.

Stream De-Snagging

Kevin will talk with Jorge on DPW brook and stream clean up status.

A Resolution is on the town council agenda for Mayor to authorize use of Passaic River grant funds for de-snagging of the Passaic River. DEP, Union County and the collective municipal DPW of neighboring towns will work collectively on a plan to de-snag Passaic River. DEP will look to exempt us to reduce permitting. UC will explore if it makes sense for the County to be the contracting party or to utilize other options.

All of the Passaic River Neighboring Towns respective DPW engineers are discussing amongst themselves individual projects to be agreed upon by group but accepted by county.

Downtown Dev. Committee.

Both the TAP and the Safe Route to Schools Grants have been submitted by the township on behalf of the BHDB. While no direct impact on the BHEC these grants if awarded could dovetail with work being done through the Community Forestry Plan.

Community Forestry Plan

Final draft has been distributed and Commissioners are being asked to review the document prior to posting the posting of the document on the BHEC website.

Anti-Idling Campaign

Stephanie Z. delivered signs to Columbia Middle School; four signs TBD. No update.

Recycling

Nothing to report.

Sustainable Jersey

No update on award for Silver status.

Community Garden

Community Garden at Littel-Lord: Kevin Hall would support and assist with the development of a plan that would separate out the plot of land specific to for the Community Garden to avoid any obligation to maintain Historic Dwelling. Christine will talk with gardeners on the topic and supply feedback.

Christine would like to promote an Education Project to Distribute flyers through schools to enhance interest in wild flowers, butterfly and bee habitat.

Scout Projects

Donohue Scout Project at Hughes Briefly discussed.

Low Impact Checklists

Kevin Hall will forward Deborah Plotnik's Checklist to Bob Miller of the Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board.

June 29 Fair

Participating BHEC Table Volunteers believed the Fair to be a successful with a good turn out.

Raffle Ticket Winners Were drawn:

Green House Raffle Winner:

Ronald Weinger
196 Lawrence Ave
Berkeley Heights NJ

Recycle Bin Winner:

P Winters
474 Central Ave
New Providence

New Business

Kevin suggested a meeting to create a team consisting of the BHEC, Mike Mastreda (Town Planner) and BHDTBC to insure goals and objectives are clearly stated for inclusion in Master Plan one year in advance of the Master Plan Revision. Kevin will start up dialog.

Grants

Nothing to report at this time.

Storm Water Ordinance

Considered a good topic for master Plan

27 Washington Avenue Zoned for 25% impervious coverage and new subdivision requires to 33% impervious coverage. Plus wet lands are nearby. BHEC would not encourage more runoff in area this close to wetlands.

73 Hillside: Demo old with new. Zoned 25% impervious coverage and proposing 29.41 % and variance to set back. This proposed change is in an area of aquifer recharge and the BHEC would not support for this reason.

CLOSING

9:20 pm. The next meeting will be July 21, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted, July 21, 2014 by Ron Loria