

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission

July 21, 2014

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

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

Guests: Christine Lewis; Michael Green;
Julie Ronner; Dan Palladino, Representing Berkeley Heights Historical Society.

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm

Minutes

Minutes from the July 7, 2014 meeting will be approved next meeting.

Stream De-Snagging

Kevin reviewed the information detailed in previous minutes on Passaic River Grant. Meeting dates and action plan with DPW's Union County and DEP - TBD

Downtown Dev. Committee.

Committee has requested if seeding cost incurred for Clock Landscape could be covered by the Peppertown Park funds. A copy of the bill will be forwarded by Halls for review. Interest in removing current holiday tree from Memorial Park and replacing it. Tree Inspector must approve removal.

Community Forestry Plan

Final draft has been distributed and Commissioners are being asked to review the document prior to posting of the document on the BHEC website. (50 points of our Sustainable Jersey Silver Status are hanging in the balance if we continue with the goal of 40% tree canopy coverage. Richard made Motion to continue goal of 40% tree canopy which also contributes to the points. Motion approved. BHEC is considering a second tree canopy survey to insure the above goal is being met.

Anti-Idling Campaign

No update. Anti-idling campaigns at future street fair could be used to increase awareness was suggested by Helen Kirsch. Christine suggested a Boy Scout campaign. Richard will reach out to his scout contact.

Recycling

Town single stream pre vs post single stream recycling is up 2 to 3 %. Recycling bulletin has been sent with tax bill to enhance awareness.

Sustainable Jersey

310 of our 350 points were accepted. And, Richard and Len are hopeful that additional points from Community Forestry Management Plan will put us over the top. See comments under Community Forestry Plan.

Community Garden

Facebook Page has been Created for Garden named Berkeley Heights Gardeners

Meeting with Tiffany Escot to be done.

Christine Lewis indicated the consensus remains by the gardeners that there are two parts at the Community Garden at Littel-Lord :

A)Garden

B)Parking

Dan Palladino says the Historical Society will support the garden. There is a need to define the tenant's area. Lease should be reviewed

Christine added that fund raising by the Garden Committee should be used on the garden alone, and that construction of the Parking could be managed by a separate entity.

Kevin suggested that perhaps the Town would be willing to commit work in conjunction with the gardeners and historic society.

Kevin will introduce the concept to Town council in conference and determine interest and commitment for parking lot funding at site.

An Engineering firm has created a thumbnail sketch for the Parking lot design and is willing to donate the engineering services necessary for the lot design. Three approaches were considered. And, reviewed by the attending representatives of the BH Historical Society. Engineering firm to estimate how many spaces would be available.

Scout Projects

Richard advised Brian Donohue on trees for the Scout Project at Hughes.

Low Impact Checklists

Kevin Hall will forward checklist (worth 10 points for Sustainable New Jersey) to Bob Miller of the Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board.

New Business

Crude pipeline was discussed. More info is needed.

Christine presented info for an opportunity to screen the movie OMG GMO. More info is needed to determine if movie is biased.

Kevin suggests a series of movies on local initiatives as an alternate. Or the library might screen other movies with environmental themes.

Plans

24 Maple Ave Homeowner wants to add second story. Existing lot coverage currently exceeds maximum. But addition will not increase lot coverage.

CLOSING

9:28 pm. The next meeting will be August 4, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted, August 04, 2014 by Ron Loria