

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission

August 4, 2014

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

- ✓ Ed Delia
- ✓ Richard Leister
- ✓ Leonard Berkowitz
- ✓ Ron Loria
- ✓ Kevin Hall
- ✓ Jaime Salazar

Guests: Michael Green

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Minutes

Minutes from the July 7 and 21, 2014 meetings were approved.

Stream De-Snagging

Ed reports heavy accumulations of debris at Salt Brook and Passaic River area due to snagging and believes this affects Berkeley Heights so he is happy that the effort is across municipalities and county. He will update the Township Administrator about what he knows.

Downtown Dev. Committee

Committee has requested if Seeding cost incurred for Clock Landscape could be covered by the Pepper Town Park funds. A copy of the bill will be forwarded by Halls for review. List of preferred trees sent to Ted Romankow who is spearheading improving appearance of the Veterans Memorial at Memorial Field. Goal is to replace Holiday tree with a smaller replacement.

Community Forestry Management Plan

CFMP Approved Status held up by issuing body (DEP Dept of Forestry) as they were not clear on CEU's submitted. CEU's Hours were resubmitted. Berkeley Heights can use grant money applied for hazard tree removal.

Anti-Idling Campaign

Richard contacted Dan Bernier and asked whether scouts would take on an anti-idling campaign. Dan is no longer involved with the scouts so he forwarded the information to people who are still involved.

Recycling

No update.

Sustainable Jersey

~9 out of 12 actions items have been edited by Len for Silver

Status Award. We are competing closely with Summit for the most points submitted. Low Impact Check List verification can provide some of the additional points needed. Kevin will try to get an expression of support from the Planning/Zoning Boards. There is not enough time to get an Ordinance done. All revised actions must be submitted in early September.

Community Garden

Community Garden at Littel-Lord :

Kevin Hall informally presented to Town Council a plan for the subject Garden with what was deemed as a favorable response by Council Members.

Garden Club / EC will provide engineering work and would rely upon the town to help with parking lot construction. Timing however, is not favorable as DPW is at maximum capacity; fixing roads, brooks, storm sewers and special projects.

EC needs to come up with a representative high level of work and usable estimates of cost for budget items. Municipal Budgeting review starts in November and up for hearing in Jan/ Feb. Target mid to late October for a presentation to Council.

Len notes location of garden supports open space / historic preservation initiatives and the possibility of asking for County Open Space funds.

Christine will work with Engineering firm for the Parking lot design and costing. The Louis Berger Group has offered to donate engineering work for this purpose.

Low Impact Checklists

Kevin Hall will follow up. Timing is critical for points for inclusion in Sustainable Jersey.

Scout Projects

Nothing to report

Storm Water Ordinance

Richard will seek an ANJEC prototype for us to consider.

Grants

A \$1500 ExxonMobil grant has been awarded for Len Berkowitz' work with the Environmental Commission. Richard thanked Len for his volunteer work and the grant.

Tree Fund / Ordinance

Nothing to report.

Tree Pruning

Tom Bocko suggests an ordinance to specify tree pruning. Richard will check with ANJEC to see if there is information on tree ordinance for pruning.

New Business

Crude pipeline was discussed. Attorney representing the group will conference call with EC On September 22nd.

Len asked that Richard to look at tree plan for Primrose School and to encourage tree planting in the fall.

Christine reported after researching the topic of GMO OMG film that the movie is not heavily propagandized rather a documentary on awareness and highlights how little is known about the possible impact of Genetically Modified Foods. Christine will talk with library and possible topics as series of talks and films taking Kevin Halls suggestion to highlight local environmental issues. Incorporating talks sponsored by local nursery's on specific gardening topics and local native plants is also a possibility.

Len noted SCR-84 was passed by the State Assembly so the referendum will be on the ballot for November to dedicate 4 % corp. Business Tax for green acres initiative.

Kevin suggested that the EC begin gathering ideas for incorporation in the next Master Plan.

Plans

531 Mountain Ave:

Plan was denied by Zoning Officer to add an in-ground pool and a detached pool house. Numbers on engineering drawing do not match those on application. Percentage for accessories structures "other" exceeds 10% allowed. Site plan does not show trees or impact on existing trees. Wet land maps were reviewed by EC. Need also to review seepage pits location and possibility of a rain garden collection system.

CLOSING

8:50 pm. The next meeting will be September 8, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted, August 4, 2014 by Ron Loria