

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission September 8, 2014

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

- ✓ Ed Delia
- ✓ Richard Leister
- ✓ Leonard Berkowitz
- ✓ Deborah Plotnik
- ✓ Jaime Salazar

Guests: Helen Kirsch, Christina Lewis

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Minutes

Minutes from the August 4, 2014 meetings were approved.

Stream De-Snagging

No update

Downtown Dev. Committee

No update

Anti-Idling Campaign

New Providence has promulgated a new anti-idling ordinance which we should review. Richard will contact Stephanie to see if the high school Environmental Club wants to mount a campaign. Deb will reach out also to her contact. Christina has spoken to the New Providence Environmental Committee regarding possible joint efforts to educate the public about idling.

Recycling

Deborah will post the recycling info on our web site. The Commission supports doing another styrofoam recycling event around the holidays since Giordanos does not recycle the styrofoam. Deborah wants to clarify whether Giordanos is able to recycle shredded paper.

Sustainable Jersey

Len submitted a revised writeup with 435 points. They are not all likely to be accepted but we should meet the 350 target for Silver Certification. We should hear back by mid-October.

Community Garden

Christina has identified a preferred location which is closer to the pond. Parking would be next to the road. There could be room for 16 spaces. Richard and Christina will look at the tree removal needs and work toward costing that activity. Commissioners felt that the town

should do at least some of the tree removal since there are dead and dying trees on town property. Christina would like to present to the Council before the end of October. She will draft a resolution asking for 10 years of use and renewable. She would like to do the stone for parking and the tree removal before snowfall. She is also pursuing possible interest by New Providence in cooperating and possible program interest by the Berkeley Heights' YMCA.

Low Impact Checklists

Kevin Hall was unable to get feedback yet due to the meeting schedule of the Boards.

Scout Projects

A scout has done a nice job of restoring the herb garden at Littell-Lord.

Storm Water Ordinance

No action.

Grants

Nothing to report.

Tree Fund / Ordinance

The ball is in the hands of messrs. Bocchino and Bocko.

Tree Pruning

Hazard tree removal by the town should be starting soon.

New Business

Len, Jaime, and Kevin attended a kickoff meeting for the next master plan – along with the planner, Mike Mistretta, and Beautification Committee members. There will be a separate Sustainability element in the plan. Mike Mistretta asked for short term (3 year) and long term (10 year) goals. Len and Jaime will be collecting ideas and this should become a regular item on our agenda. We should have our ideas organized by year end.

Master Plan

Plans

Kuntz Ave

A complicated plan involving boardwalk and an elevated house on a flag lot in an area of wetlands and transition zone was reviewed. The Commission had numerous objections to the plan.

CLOSING

9:30 pm. The next meeting will be October 13, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted, by Leonard Berkowitz