

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission October 13, 2014

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

- ✓ Ed Delia
- ✓ Richard Leister
- ✓ Leonard Berkowitz
- ✓ Deborah Plotnik
- ✓ Ronald A. Loria
- ✓ Kevin Hall

Guests: Christina Lewis, Bhargavi Akiri, Margaret Illis

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm

Minutes

Minutes from the September 8, 2014 meetings were approved.

Stream De-Snagging

Kevin Hall has committed to meet with DPW regularly to review progress of stream de-snagging and to act as liaison for Multi Town effort to develop a plan to utilize grant monies for Passaic River de-snagging project in the absence of Lind Cavanaugh.

Downtown Dev. Committee

No update

Anti-Idling Campaign

New Providence has promulgated a new anti-idling ordinance which we should review. Richard contacted Stephanie to see if the high school Environmental Club wants to mount a campaign, but has not heard back. 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 Giordano does not recycle the styrofoam. Marlene Sincaglia will coordinate with the high school environmental club. Deborah wants to clarify whether Giordanos is able to recycle shredded paper.

Sustainable Jersey

Berkeley Heights has obtained Silver status. Ceremony is planned to present Silver Certification at League of Municipalities November 18, 2014. A press release is

expected, and the Commission will post on website when it becomes available. Len Berkowitz, Richard Leister and Ed Delia plan to attend.

Deborah will reach out to the HS Environmental Club to see if there is a volunteer to enter utility consumption data for the BH municipal buildings into the EPA Energy Star web site.

Community Garden

Christina met with Save A Tree representative for tree removal estimate at Community Garden proposed site. Township approval of trees pending. Richard met with Redwood, which also offered an estimate for removing 16 trees. Tom Bocko, tree inspector, will visit site on Oct 14..

Madeline DiNardo from RU Cooperative will assist in setting plot measurements with Christina; once established, Christina can develop a material list and labor required to develop plots.

Kevin proposed that Ed Delia present, with input from Christina, to the November 3rd or 24th Town Council Conference Session the elements of a resolution, which the Township Attorney will then draw up for approval by the Council.

Christina spoke with the New Providence environmental committee about the Community Garden. She will attend their meeting to explore possible cooperation. Their next Meeting is slated for November 21st. Len Berkowitz has offered to attend and help share info on our success with Sustainable NJ Silver Status. Other discussion topics to include joint campaign on anti-idling, community garden and Passaic River Park Trail Extension.

Low Impact Checklists

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

Scout Projects

No Action

Storm Water Ordinance

No action. Kevin asked about what guidelines exist about stormwater management. Len stated that there may be a stormwater management plan on the Township website. As the Township Engineer, Bob Bocchino is in charge of this subject.

Pilgrim Pipe Line

The Commission agreed to request a conference call with a representative from the Pilgrim Pipe Line at the November 24th meeting. Richard Leister will contact representative to set up conference call and determine a method to field a public Q&A's and ask if the conference call could be archived.

The commission believes the best method for discussion would be to open questions to the public in advance of the meeting; collect and distribute the questions in advance of the conference call. Richard will ask Barbara Russo for access to township e mail for this purpose or if we are better served setting a up a G mail type account.

Tree Survey

The Tree Survey is complete. More than 5,500 trees have been identified and recorded in the database.

Tree Fund / Ordinance

No news or action

Tree Pruning

Richard will provide Kevin with list of trees designated for removal so Kevin can follow up with Bob Bocchino and Tom Bocko on the use of the grant money for tree removal.

New Business

Public Question: whether to dedicate State business tax to green acres open space. State has exhausted Green Acres Fund. Len urged people to vote yes.

Master Plan

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.

Posting of Minutes

Richard was made aware that minutes are not being posted and will investigate and resolve.

Plans

64 Holly Glen South Plan is to clear-cut, tear down and build new house. Richard will ask for development plan.

CVS landscape architect submitted a revised plan with more native plants.

CLOSING

9:00 pm. The next meeting will be October 27, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted, by Ron Loria October 14, 2014.