

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission  
April 20th, 2015

**ATTENDEES PRESENT**

The following commission members were present:

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| ✓ Richard Leister   | ✓ Ed Delia      |
| ✓ Leonard Berkowitz | ✓ Helen Kirsch  |
| ✓ Christina Lewis   | ✓ Jaime Salazar |

**Meeting Called To Order**

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

**Minutes**

Minutes from the April 6th, 2015 meetings were approved.

**Stream De-Snagging Grant Project**

Nothing to Report.

**Recycling & HS**

Nothing to Report.

**Community Gardening**

Christina visited the Littel-Lord site on Saturday 4/18 with Ed Delia and Historical Society rep and determined a new layout for the driveway and parking lot at the proposed garden site. This layout (see attached design drawing) places the driveway on the north corner of the property creating access to the garden from Horseshoe Rd.

In addition, the commission discussed and agreed that BHEC would be responsible for the cost of the driveway and parking lot building materials (i.e. gravel, stone, etc). It was also proposed that the Town be asked to support the project in kind.

Before moving forward with the presentation of this new proposal to the Town Council, Bob Bocchino must approve the new layout. Tentative date for the Council presentation is May 5<sup>th</sup>, provided Mr. Bocchino approves new design.

**Environmental Movies**

Christina encouraged commissioners to watch the trailer for the film *Symphony for Soil*. The trailer can be found at the film's website: [www.symphonyofthesoil.com/](http://www.symphonyofthesoil.com/). Helen will check whether films could be shown at Columbia School.

**Scout Projects**

Passaic River Park  
Nothing to Report.

Rain garden  
Nothing to Report.

**Grants**

ANJEC Open Space Grant  
No update.

State Grant No update.

DEP Grant

Len to research NJ State minimum in-kind wage-value in order to satisfy in-kind self-contribution requirement. Richard to check with

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County (BAK)

**Storm Water Ordinance**

Nothing to Report.

**Master Plan**

Len will not proceed with further review of gathered feedback until Kevin can confirm the timing of Master Plan and determine when/if changes will need to be made.

**Tree Fund**

Nothing to Report.

**Highlands Coalition**

Nothing to Report.

**New Business**

Arbor Day

Rich distributed elderberry and northern bayberry saplings to all 4th grades in BH for Arbor day.

Webhosting Fees

A new method to pay for the BHEC website webhosting fee must be explored because the current method – a member of the commission paying and expensing the service – will not work in the long term.

Milkweed Garden @ Schools

Christine spoke with Woodruff Elementary School's Principal about idea that BHEC can sponsor a Milkweed garden at the school. She received positive feedback from the principal.

Helen offered to bring this idea in front of the BOE next meeting.

Street Fair

BHEC must begin planning for participation at the BH Street Fair. To that effort, commissioners were encouraged to visit the Warren/Watchung Green Fair to gather ideas. The annual Green Fair will be held on April 25 between 10 am and 1 pm in the parking lot of the Warren Municipal Complex at 46 Mountain Blvd.

**Plans**

124 Rutgers Ave

EC recommends that the applicant mitigate for the increase of more than 250 square feet of impervious surface by having the downspouts direct stormwater runoff to a rain garden or drywell.

5 Harrison Drive This project was rejected because it exceeded the maximum impervious coverage.

It is recommended that both applicants submit a revised application highlighting specific solutions to mitigate storm water runoff.

**CLOSING**

8:35 pm. Next meeting will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Jaime Salazar