

## **Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission September 14, 2015**

### **ATTENDEES**

The following commission members were present:

Richard Leister  
Leonard Berkowitz  
David Ogens  
Ed Delia  
Christina Lewis  
Kevin Hall  
Helen Kirsch

Guest:

### **Meeting Called To Order**

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm

### **Minutes**

Minutes from the August 31, 2015 meetings were approved.

### **New Business**

- A) Cattails at Little-Lord Farmstead site – Dan Palladino sent an email to the Environmental Commission asking that commissioners go and observe the deteriorating condition of the pond and specifically the invasive growth of cattails. Richard was contacted by Bocchino and after Richard's observation he recommended to Bocchino that DPW try removing the rhizomes by hand. Ed volunteered that he would try to contact the DEP and Fish and Wildlife Service to ascertain the correct varieties of fish that can be introduced into the pond to help maintain the pond naturally.
- B) Township Trees – Richard sent an email out asking each commissioner to find 2 neighboring residents who want a tree planted in the township right of way, 40 trees in total including Dogwoods, Redbuds, Sassafras, Maples and Oaks. Clerks Office agreed to be the point of contact on this project.
- C) PSA Thursday Evening – a taping of Woodruff's roundtable is to be taped on Thursday, and all commissioners were invited to join Richard.
- D) Budget Advocate – Kevin Hall suggested that the EC should advocate for the budget by presenting an EC agenda to the budget panel. Richard is to draft an email, with Kevin spearheading the advocate effort, detailing which projects the EC wants to budget for in the upcoming budget cycle.

**Stream De-Snagging Grant Project**

Kevin shared that 2 bids were accepted for contractor work of the de-snagging. The work will start Sept 24 and will last for 30 days, M-F from 7-5. Further updates will come from Kevin.

**Recycling & HS**

No new update on this subject.  
From 7/20/15: Marlene to follow up with Summit who has a transfer station and a source for disposal; Also New Providence has a small area for electrical disposal and Marlene will approach to see if this can be extended to Styrofoam. Marlene will contact High School once the school year begins. Marlene also proposed K Cup recycling. Based on an Innovative Company Terracycle company that sells recycle containers for K cups. A motion was made to sponsor the purchase for a recycle pod and develop a strategy to provide a point for community members to dispose of their K Cups.

**Community Gardening**

Christina to send updated parking drawing to Bocchino and get 1-2 quotes for driveway construction

**Environmental Movies**

Christina to continue research on getting movies

**Scout Projects**

**Passaic River Park  
Rain Garden**

Richard contacted Betty Ann Kelly about using DPW culverts but has yet to hear back from her.  
Kevin to see about including canoeing/trails on BH Rec Dept website

**Dog Waste**

No update

**Storm Water Ordinance**

Nothing to report.

**Master Plan**

No update

**Tree Fund**

Nothing to report.

**Pilgrim Pipeline**

Ordinance was passed. No further action is required.

**Plans**

20 Old Farm Road (subdivision proposal) – concerned about quantity and age of trees to be removed, water drainage issues identified, quality of life issues identified  
17 Briarwood Drive – proposed garage expansion exceeds side-yard variance and may result in sever root damage to

neighbor's nearby tree.

**Pepper town Park**

The garden bed was edged and Joyce started weeding. There is no formal timeline for the repair of the bed. Richard will email out invitation for weeding and planting parties.

**New Business**

See above in New Business D) Budget Advocate

**CLOSING**

Mtg closed at 9:06pm. Next Meeting October 5, 2015  
Respectfully submitted by Christina Lewis October 5, 2015