

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission October 5, 2015

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

Richard Leister
Leonard Berkowitz
David Ogens
Ed Delia
Helen Kirsch
Ron Loria
Deborah Plotnik

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm

Minutes

Minutes from the September 14, 2015 meetings were approved.

New Business

Emerald Ash Borer: Len attended a symposium on the topic. Suggestion was made to post information on the EC website to increase community awareness. Several hundred Ash trees on city right-of-way's are at risk should there be an infestation. Richard will forward a report on the results of the EAB traps.

Business Re-cycling: Len discussed and confirmed that there is an ordinance regarding business owners to re-cycle. Town Administrator will communicate requirement out to Chamber of commerce, which remind businesses of requirement and indicate spot inspection can result in fines.

Sustainable Schools: Helen reported that School Superintendent is spearheading initiative to attain Sustainable School Status. The award is by individual school and not for entire district. First objective is to obtain status for GL and possibly Woodruff next with solar panel use. 500 + schools have attained this status thus far; 1 or 2 school districts have complete certification.

Municipal Brown Field: Len contacted the DEP regarding information on BH sites Brown Field Status. DEP advised that files are available however the volume of information requires an appointment to review information in Trenton.

observation was to recommended to Bob Bocchino that DPW try removing the rhizomes by hand. Ed contacted the DEP and Fish and Wildlife Service and will meet with Mr. Bocchino to possibly pursue permits to obtain grass carp to control cattails.

Township Tree Planting

Township Trees – Richard’s email and Ed’s announcement at Township Council meeting to seek residents who want a tree planted in the township right of way was well received and plans are to plant 20+ trees on the township right of way.

EC Budget

Kevin Hall suggested that the EC should advocate for the budget by presenting an EC agenda to the budget panel. Richard requested Kevin be present for formal discussion as a group.

Stream De-Snagging Grant Project

The scheduled work to start Sept 24 has been postponed until water levels fall.

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 was unable to attend however reported briefly by phone of no updates to this project as for now.

Environmental Movies

Helen reported that GL will offer films at location TBD. EC members may review films prior to showing.

Scout Projects

No update

Passaic River Park

Richard contacted Betty Ann Kelly about using DPW culverts but has yet to hear back from her.
From 8/14/15: Kevin to see about including canoeing/trails on BH Rec Dept website

Dog Waste

No update

Storm Water Ordinance	Nothing to report.
Master Plan	To be updated by 2017. A draft with updates is available from Connie Valenti, DPW.
Tree Fund	Nothing to report.
Pilgrim Pipeline	Ordinance was drawn up and awaits voting.
Plans	<p>86 Mountain: New construction on vacant lot; variance has to do with setbacks and does not exceed impervious coverage percentage. Recommendations will be made to list trees to be eliminated and to develop means to keep storm water runoff on property.</p> <p>49 Shadow Lane: Variance was to enable installation of hot tub on existing decking. There were no issues to be addressed by EC.</p>
Pepper town Park	The garden bed was edged and, weeded. Mulching is planned for spring. Native plants have been planted.
CLOSING	Meeting closed at 9:00pm. Next Meeting October 19, 2015 Respectfully submitted by Ron Loria October 5, 2015