

**Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
October 19, 2015**

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

Richard Leister
Leonard Berkowitz
David Ogens
Ed Delia
Ron Loria
Christina Lewis

Guest: Katie Ellis- **Watershed Ambassador**
- Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center
Division of Cultural and Environmental Resources

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm

Stream De-Snagging Grant Project

Construction equipment has been sighted at the river indicating work may be underway.

Budgets

Kevin Hall communicated the need to submit a proposed budget to the town council.

Community Gardening

Christina provided construction estimates to finalize the project. Suggestions were made to ask town council for partial funding to complete the project in time for Spring 2016. Christina to attend November 10 Town Council Meeting to present.

Environmental Movies

Katie Ellis was asked to investigate any Watershed Educational Programs that could be used for this purpose.

**Scout Projects
Passaic River Park**

Ron Loria made contact with Bill Shultz; dates will be coordinated for Scout Council Leaders to attend a BHEC Meeting to brain storm possible opportunities.

- **Rain garden**

Richard Leister to gather info on Somerville NJ project and Asked Katie Ellis to investigate any community outreach programs that may be available through the RU Cooperative Extension.

Passaic River Park Richard contacted Betty Ann Kelly about using DPW culverts but has yet to hear back from her.

Storm Water Ordinance Nothing to report.

Tree Fund Nothing to report.

Request for Trees Richard reported more than 20 requests by town residents for trees to the Town Hall.

Dog Waste Receptacles R. Loria e mailed Bob Bocchino regarding supply of dog waste receptacles at Taylor Floyd Field and lower Columbia Park Field. Awaiting Response.

Pepper town Park Fall daffodil Bulb Planting is being planned; more details to follow. Mulching is planned for spring. Native plants have been planted. The Commission would like to have a sign constructed that identifies the natural components of the garden and the park.

AmeriCorps Ambassador Katie Ellis introduced herself as the new Watershed Ambassador for [Watershed Management Area 6](#). The NJ DEP identifies this as all area drained by waters from the upper reaches of the Passaic River Basin including the Passaic River from its headwaters in Morris County to the confluence of the Pompton River. Katie's goal is to provide community educational programs on the significance and importance of the water sheds to the community and surround areas. And, to provide visual and biological monitoring of streams and rivers of the watershed.

New Business

- **Green Infrastructure** Kevin Hall Communicated that Town Planner suggests the inclusion of a Green Infrastructure to New Development Plan. And, that Guidance should be favored over a "Hard Code" as not to discourage development. A template will be made available for BHEC input.
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- **Budgets** Also Kevin suggested the BHEC develop a list of priorities that should be included in next years budget.

New Business (Continued)

**- Water Supply
Master Plan**

A motion was made and approved; to request that the Township Develop a resolution to request that the State of NJ update the Water Supply Master Plan which has not been updated since 1996. The Highland Coalition has provided a template, which will be forwarded to the town council.

Plans

Plan revision 86 Mountain: Recommendations will be made to reduce impervious coverage by eliminating horseshoe driveway being proposed and to develop means to keep storm water runoff on property.

CLOSING

Meeting closed at 8:50pm. Next Meeting November 2, 2015
Respectfully submitted by Ron Loria November 2, 2015.