

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission November 2, 2015

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

Richard Leister
Leonard Berkowitz
Ed Delia
Ron Loria
Christina Lewis
Kevin Hall

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm and minutes from October 19, 2015, meeting were approved.

Stream De-Snagging Grant Project

Kevin H. noted that there is action on both fronts (River and Stream clean-up). Kevin Hall offered to get clarification.

Budgets

Kevin Hall had previously suggested that the Commission development of list of priorities

Priorities Discussed

- 1) To insure on-going Stream / Brook de- snagging
- 2) To insure ongoing Hazardous Tree Removal
- 3) To insure new planting of trees (funded by Tree Fund) are implemented by DPW. And, to include gator bags /watering of new plantings.

The above topics to be presented to:

- 1) Town Engineer
- 2) Town Administrator
- 3) At Council Meeting during Budget Hearings.

As a side bar Kevin suggested developing a plan inclusive of all aspects of tree canopy preservation. The plan would include professional re-evaluation of hazardous trees by section and removal plan. And, to proactively screen / eradicate destructive Ash Borer species. Kevin offered to research the idea further.

Community Gardening

Christina opened discussion on talking points for Town Council presentation.

- BHEC and Historical Society supports initiative.
- Engineering has reviewed and approved plans.
- The Garden has a team in place and interest

- This property is suitable Historic Society Supports the initiative.
- Request funding from Town Council to pave parking lot which would benefit the community gardeners and Historical Society.
- Is based on Models in Summit.

Environmental Movies

Christina and Len previewed *Lets Eat It* Movie at Watchung Regional Hills High School. Take-away was this might be a suitable option for showing.

**Scout Projects
Passaic River Park**

R. Loria made contact with Bill Shultz who requested that John Pullara from troop 368 attend also. Dates will be coordinated with Bill and John for December 21st or after the New Year.

Rain garden

R. 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, R. Loria to investigate potential sites on township owned sites.

Passaic River Park

Richard continues to contact 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.

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

Nothing to report.

**New Development plan
Green Infrastructure**

Kevin Hall spoke with Michael Mistretta, who agreed to provide language in New Development Plan. **And, made available for BHEC input.**

Water Supply Master Plan

Richard will send the **ANJEC resolution seeking release of the updated Water Supply Master Plan to Kevin.**

New Business

Cristina suggested development of a program similar to the Tree Steward Education Program as part of the regular curriculum at all schools. K through 12. Christina to follow up with Helen Kirsch.

Plans

569 Springfield Avenue Town Homes 2 buildings – 7 unit housing project:

Recommend for non-approval as follows:

- Landscape design includes invasives and does not include recommended Native species.
- Variance application proposes 14 spaces when zoning ordinance requires 16.
- Storm run-off to street is unacceptable as is impervious lot coverage.

60 Evergreen:

2 story addition over existing structure. Set back is non-conforming; no comment by BHEC.

CLOSING

Meeting closed at 9:50pm. Next Meeting November 16, 2015. Respectfully submitted by Ron Loria November 2, 2015.