

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission November 16, 2015

ATTENDEES

The following commission members were present:

Richard Leister
Leonard Berkowitz
Ed Delia
Ron Loria
Christina Lewis
Kevin Hall
Deborah Plotnik
Dave Ogens

Guests:

Katie Ellis- Watershed Ambassador
Historical Society: Dan Palladino and Ron Wiegert

Meeting Called To Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm and minutes were approved from November 2, 2015 meeting with minor clarification.

Stream De-Snagging Grant Project

Len reports project is active in Long Hill.

Budgets

Kevin Hall met with Bob Bocchino regarding budget ideas; action items are

1. For Bob to confirm that the tree fund is available to be spent only by EC. Bob was unsure however willing to investigate.
2. Bob will provide a year-end accounting on number and location of hazardous trees for removal. And, with the EC input, to formalize a plan for hazardous tree removal going forward.
3. BHEC members will meet with Bob to insure detail is reflected in town budget.
4. Action Item: Kevin Hall will set up possible meeting dates with Bob.
5. Implementation of New Tree Planting and Watering Plan. And, agree on a protocol funded by BHEC to water the trees.

Community Gardening

Plan is to present concept to town council for approval

of parking lot. Richard will follow-up with Town Engineer for input before presenting to the town council.

- BHEC and Historical Society supports initiative.
- Engineering needs to review and approve plans and advise on county requirements.
- The Garden has a team in place and interest
- This property is suitable.
- Request funding from Town Council to pave parking lot which would benefit the community gardeners and Historical Society.
- Is based on Models in Summit and other communities.

Environmental Movies

Christina has provided a source for environmental movies and possible list of topics and will discuss with Helen Kirsch and the GLHS Environmental Club for possible the January-February 2016 time frame.

**Scout Projects
Passaic River Park**

R. Loria followed up with Bill Shultz on optional meeting dates.

Rain garden

Katie highlighted meeting discussion points with Rutgers Cooperative representatives for possible ideas.

- Learned of possible project funding
- Possible educational programs for implementation on private property.
- Design Day concept.
- Richard suggest that we make council aware of our efforts to implement development for public and private rain gardens.

**Passaic River Park
Trail enhancement**

Richards's feedback from Betty Ann Kelly is that project would need the county approval since this is county property. If installation of culvert is not allowed a foot bridge ("crossing") would then be proposed.

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. R. Loria to contact Basking Ridge on dog park receptacles and

how waste disposal is handled and funded.

Pepper town Park

Nothing to report.

**New Development plan
Green Infrastructure**

Kevin Hall spoke about the Planned Open Workshop in January 2016 to enable plans for each proposed site. And asked that we get Mike Maestreda on the agenda to foster ideas toward writing the green infrastructure component to the New Development Plan.

Water Supply Master Plan

Richard forwarded Template Resolution to Kevin For approval by Council. Richard to help with info on why this is important to BH.

New Business

Watershed Ambassador will organize removal of invasive plants. Wisteria herbicide was suggested by the county to curtail growth at path to Columbia Field.

Plans

200 Connell Drive

Cell Towers – Applying for Use variance since wireless communication facilities are not permitted in this zone. No tree impact and use do not exceed radiation exposure.

Connell Property

Walking Path and Park Project – recommendation was made to walk the project for better insight and scope of the project relative to environmental concern.

43 Riverbend

replacement of existing deck with an expanded deck and second story addition. Recommendations are to make efforts to hold run off on property.

9 Gregory Court

Plans (con't)

Replacement of existing deck with a new deck. Previous variances where not granted to exceed set back. Concern is that property already exceeds impervious coverage minimum and recommendations are to make efforts to hold run off on property.

CLOSING

Meeting closed at 9:45 pm. Next Public Meeting December 21, 2015. Respectfully submitted by Ron Loria November 16, 2015.