

DRAFT Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission  
12/21/2015

**Attendees:** Richard Leister, Leonard Berkowitz, Ed Delia, Christina Lewis, Kevin Hall, David Ogens

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the November 15, 2015 meeting were approved

**Scout Projects:** Bill Schulz came to speak about merit badges. He mentioned that the scouts are open to having EC members give presentations about EC projects around town but that presenters would have to attend a mandatory training meeting. Bill said he would get back to us about what kind of environmental projects would qualify for merit badges. He said scouts could help distribute flyers about rain gardens.

**Budget Discussion:** ANJEC raised membership price for 2016 by \$10. To date the EC spent \$868.74 and had budgeted \$1,132. Richard feels the budget should stay closer to \$1,132 because of pending continuing education reimbursements. Richard brought up that tree planting and water contractor work should be added to the tree fund and that hazardous tree removal costs should be included in the town budget.

**Watershed Ambassador:** Richard met with Chris Obropta and Katie Ellis at Rutgers, and Chris gave Richard a report of 18 sites within BH that could benefit from impervious coverage reduction projects. These projects would include rain gardens, bioswales and pervious asphalt. A discussion about creating a town-wide rain garden installation project was started by Richard. Richard would create a flyer and Katie would do a presentation. Richard mentioned that another town gave residents \$3/sqft rebates and that NJ American Water and Sustainable Jersey are possible grants funding sources. Kevin would like to see the EC create press releases that educate the public about rain gardens.

**River Desnagging:** Ed reviewed the progress made by the contractors/Bocchino and he expressed his dismay over the location the trees were laid down. He felt they were left too close to the river's edge and could create log jams when the river peaks during spring/summer storms.

**Community Gardening:** Christina has not heard back from the CPWM Director about getting permission from Union County to build a driveway off of Horseshoe Road.

**Environmental Movies:** Christina reported no progress.

**Passaic River Park:** No progress. Richard has not heard back from Betty Ann Kelly.

**Water Supply Master Plan:** Discussion was tabled.

**Pepper town Park:** No update.

**New Business:** Richard brought up the fact that the EC needs new members with the retiring of Len. Kevin will become the residential member of the Planning Board and be the liaison to the EC. Additionally, Richard is requesting that everyone submit their volunteer hours for 2015.

**Plans:**

No plans were presented or reviewed.

No other matters were discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58. Respectfully submitted by Christina Lewis on 1/7/16.