

DRAFT Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission  
1/18/2016

Attendees: Richard Leister, Ed Delia, Christina Lewis, Kevin Hall, David Ogens, Kinan Tadmori

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from December 21, 2015 meeting were approved.

Stream Desnagging: Passaic River has already been desnagged in 13 individual problem areas, Kevin will find out where. Kevin will ensure that river desnagging is a line item in the budget. It was also mentioned that there should be a weekly or biweekly summary of desnagging progress.

Budgets: Richard said that the budget would be the same as last year's.

Community Garden: There was some confusion on how much funding would come from the town. Christina provided overview of cost and said technically town would only need to give approximately \$500.00, if all of the Environmental Commission Budget is used on the garden. Christina indicated that labor could be donated by DPW but that is not confirmed. It was noted that the Environmental Commission should approach the township and it would be their decision on who will do the work/how it will get done. Christina will send Kevin the breakdown of costs for the garden and he will pass it along. Also, Christina is having trouble getting in contact with someone from Union County who can help with the Community Garden.

Environmental Movies: The email Christina used to reach the teacher at GL is not working, she will confirm that it is the correct one and try again.

Scout Projects: Ron was not in attendance – no update.

Rain gardens and Watershed Ambassador: Richard met with Katie, who will help us apply for grants. It is not confirmed that Rutgers can get funding for rain gardens for residents. Rutgers said to identify sites for rain gardens. Richard spoke to Bob Bocchino who suggested the fire department or Columbia parking. Subsoil must still be investigated– needs further testing. Other options include GL, Mountain Park, and others. It was mentioned that Mr. Geiger at Columbia showed interest in the project, which would help ensure that people would be aware/involved in maintaining it. Funding may come from grants (Sustainable Jersey, NJDEP, etc.)

Passaic River Park Crossing: No update.

Stormwater Ordinance:

Tree Fund: The Environmental Commission must authorize spending of tree fund mone. The Township asks that the fund be for dead tree removal as well as planting of new trees. Environmental Commission will take responsibility for a tree survey,

whether we hire someone or have someone internally do it. Could do 20% of the tree survey each year (for 5 years). Kevin will talk with Township and come up with a projection for the upcoming 5 years for tree surveying.

Dog Waste Receptacles: No update

Peppertown Park: No update.

New Development Plan: The plan for the new development was presented. Christina noted that the wetland line delineation was performed in September, and noted it would be further out during the spring months. Could not find historical wetland data.

Water Supply Master Plan:

CFMP CEUs:

New Business:

Plans: Two plans were brought up. One was at 25 Liberty Avenue in which a single family home is to be demolished and rebuilt. No mention of tree removal, except in the agreement. No drainage plan. Maximum impervious surface exceeded, so rain garden recommended.

The second plan was at the corner of Mountain Avenue and Plainfield Avenue (Westminster Presbyterian Church). They wish to subdivide the property. There is a steep slope (up to 15%) and the development would involve tree removal near the top of the slope, creating a potential flooding issue. Dry wells and detention systems would need to be in place. It was recommended that Rutgers water resources should be consulted on this project. Alternative is open space/green acres application.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM. Respectfully submitted by Kinan Tadmori on 1/31/2016.

Next meeting is Feb 1, 2016