

DRAFT Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
February 1, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM

Attendees: Richard Leister, Ed Delia, Christina Lewis, Kevin Hall, Deborah Plotnik, Ron Loria, David Ogens, Kinan Tadmori

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from January 4, 2016 approved
Minutes from January 18, 2016 approved

Stream Desnagging: Nothing to report.

Budgets: DPW wants to add membership in NJ Tree Federation, thus money should be added to EC budget for membership.

Community Garden: Township has to request a opening at the site from Union county, because the site cuts into a county road, technically “curb cutting” even though not technically a curb. Christina will fill out as much as possible in DPW application for curb installation, and then send to township to complete.

Environmental Movies: Deborah will call GLHS to get name/contact of Environmental Science Club teacher.

Scout Projects: Ron reached out to Scouts tonight and will find out what training he needs. Options for project include: invasive removal, rain gardens, planting native plants (80-100 available for planting), signage at Peppertown Park, bench, Passaic River crossing.

Rain gardens and Watershed Ambassador: No funds will come from NJDEP. Richard drafted Sustainable jersey grant application, almost ready to submit. Looking to have meeting at BH Public Library in April to develop interest in rain gardens, as well as writing articles, sending messages to homes/schools. Free Acres also working on project, Richard will follow up and let them know what we are doing. Cost would be approximately \$12,000 for 20 homes to install rain gardens.

Passaic River Park Crossing: Might be potential Scout project.

Stormwater Ordinance: Richard to follow up with Bob Bocchino.

Tree Fund: Kevin Hall spoke with town Administrator, John Bussiculo. Town asked if Environmental Commission would help pay for replacement Christmas tree (to purchase 30-foot tree instead of 20-foot). The EC formally does not recommend cutting down the tree, but if it is to be replaced the tree should be native and not to exceed 20 feet. Kevin will talk to town administrator about budget for the tree

survey/larger goals. Richard to consult with Native Plant Society about native evergreen.

Dog Waste Receptacles: Nothing to report.

Peppertown Park: Bulbs have been planted. Plans to mulch/remove weeds in the spring.

New Development Plan: Area on Northern part of Little Flower site already assumed to be a stream in Environmental Plan, so buffer zone has been established. Assuming all goes as planned, the property will be the site of townhome development. The town will put out the development for bid respecting the constraints of the town, which take into account town planner recommendations and residents' input.

Plans: No plans to review.

Next meeting is on February 22, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. Respectfully submitted by Kinan Tadmori on 2/20/16.