

DRAFT Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
2.22.16

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM

Attendees: Richard Leister, Ed Delia, Lori Meier (guest), Christina Lewis, David Ogens, Kinan Tadmori, Katie Ellis (Watershed Ambassador)

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from February 2, 2016 approved

Stream desnagging: Area where river passes Summit Avenue was desnagged but Ed reports it seems to be worse. Richard will send an email to John Bussiculo regarding future desnagging.

Community Garden: Christina set up time on Wednesday (2/24/16) 11AM-1PM and 7PM-9PM at BHPL for people to get more information on status of garden and how people can help. Looking for people to commit to committee. Will probably also do the same next Wednesday (3/2/16). Depending on interest, may present to township in 2 weeks (just garden itself, not parking area, will let town decide if they want it to be a gravel lot). Town has to apply for the permits because we don't own the property.

Environmental Movies: Christina will contact Lara from GLHS. Looking to do movies in April (around Earth Day) and then a series of movies in the fall.

Scout Projects: No update

Rain Gardens and Watershed Ambassador: Grant application submitted to Sustainable Jersey, will be announced March 21, 2016. We received letter of recommendation from Rutgers Water Resources, submitted along with grant application. New Jersey American Water grant application drafted, waiting to hear back on the first grant before applying. Next step is advertising the April event: Workshop on April 7, 2016 6:30-8:30 PM, and follow up day (tech support/design day with landscape architects) April 20, 2016 8:00 AM-4:00 PM. Both held at the BHPL.

Passaic River Park Crossing: Possible Scout Project, no update.

Stormwater Ordinance: Richard will follow up with Bob Bocchino.

Tree Fund and Norway Spruce: Richard spoke with Ted Ramankow, Veterans Memorial committee will use their funds to purchase new Norway Spruce tree.

Dog waste receptacles: No update

Water Supply Master Plan: Richard will send Water Supply Master Plan resolution to Ed for presentation to Township Council.

725 Mountain Avenue (Church): No update

New Business

Union County Means Green: Networking event March 7, 2016 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

CSIP: Richard to review for possible grant.

Peppertown Park: Might need to start weeding in April

Plans

482 Springfield Avenue: Addition to front of the building. The amount of impervious cover has to be considered. Plans involve removing 1 Norway Spruce tree. Question of visibility on that corner was raised.

569 Springfield Avenue: Issue with snow removal, not enough space to put it. Additionally could not locate garbage on plans. Richard to review proposed plants

235 Snyder Avenue: Chemtrade, interior renovations to the warehouse within current footprint of the building. No evident environmental issues to comment on.

175 Watchung Boulevard (GLHS): Installation of Verizon Wireless tower, existing trees would be removed (number of trees not indicated in plans). Raised the question of placement of tower near where children are playing/close to some homes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM

Next meeting :Monday March 7th. Ed Delia will be the meeting chair.