

DRAFT Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
4-18-16

Meeting called to order at 7:37 PM

Attendees: Richard Leister, Christine Lewis, Kinan Tadmori, Ed Delia, Deborah Plotnik

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 4-4-16 approved

Stream desnagging: Nothing to report

Community Garden: Union County Means Green Community Garden Grant: BHEC is eligible to apply and receive up to \$3,000 in matching grant. Requirements: Garden size must be 20 x 14 feet, two head gardeners must be identified, harvest report must be submitted, grantees must enroll as partner garden in initiative (Groundwork Elizabeth Come Grow With Us). Still need: township approval, need to identify the two head gardeners. Aiming to present to township at May 10 town council meeting. Application deadline is May 6, 2016. Motion to apply for grant unanimously approved.

Environmental Movies: Need to find another date, aiming for the fall.

Scout Projects: Ron meeting with scouts on 5-17-16

Peppertown park: More volunteers needed for weeding on Saturday 4-23-16

Rain Gardens and Watershed Ambassador: Approximately 12 people signed up for rain garden design workshop on April 20th. Can fill up to 20 slots. Rutgers will put in the rain garden at GLHS (to the left of front main entrance), involving high school environmental club to help take care of it.

Passaic River Park Crossing: Richard will follow up

Stormwater Ordinance: Richard awaiting response from Bob Bocchino.

Dog waste receptacles: Ron will look further into application for Clean Communities grant. Richard will look into Sustainable Jersey grant being used for this project.

New Development Plan: Nothing to report

Water Supply Master Plan: Township passed resolution asking state to release revised Plan.

CSIP grant: Grant for the Emerald Ash Borer. No funding would come out of town budget. DPW would remove trees with diameter less than 3 inches, tree fund would

be used to replace them. For ash trees on private property: treatment would have to continue for 10 years, encourage people to treat them, possibly identify grant that would fund treatment on private property. Addressing Emerald Ash Borer issue is following through on forestry plan. Richard will write something up for the TAP and will send to Ron.

New Business

Arbor Day: GLHS looking to have Arbor Day Event April 29th. Richard recommends planting trees on top of slope behind the school. Arbor Day event is part of commitment to Tree City.

Emerald Ash Borer: Covered under CSIP above.

Pruning: Richard reached out to CTE, who works at Duke Farms, to give a class on pruning to DPW.

Municipal Pipeline: Ed will ask town council if anyone was contacted about funding the legal fund for environmental study to prevent DEP approval of Municipal Pipeline.

Street Fair: Taking place 6-26-16. Ideas: emphasize trails, could make wildflower seed balls, Christine will look into reusable bags. Ed to explore bat houses. Richard will supply information on how to identify ash trees on property. Richard will look for application from Chamber of Commerce

Passaic River Cleanup Day with L'Oreal: 6-10-16

Plans

Richard will ask Tom Bocko about status on cell tower at high school.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM

Next meeting is Monday May 2, 2016 at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kinan Tadmori on 4-19-16