

DRAFT Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission  
5-2-16

Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM

Attendees: Richard Leister, Christine Lewis, Kinan Tadmori, Ed Delia, Lori Meyer, Dave Ogens

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 4-18-16 approved

Community Garden: Christine has confirmed two people who are interested in being head gardeners. Kim Frohman and Christine Lewis's names will go on the grant application as the head gardeners, will get the others involved in the meantime. Application will be submitted by May 16<sup>th</sup>, we will know by end of May if we've been awarded the grant, will aim to present to township at May 24 town council meeting. Richard will ask town treasurer how we go about acquiring the materials and paying for it. Construction estimated to start between June 6-10. Fencing not included in the cost estimate, Christine will find out the contact who can install the fencing, possibly have ribbon cutting ceremony June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Environmental Movies: Tabled until the end of summer

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

Rain Gardens and Watershed Ambassador: Design session occurred April 20<sup>th</sup>, around 15 people attended. People received detailed designs for rain gardens, with plants. Next step is actually building the rain gardens (if their properties are suitable for rain gardens). Richard will look into how the grant will be distributed if there are fewer people than expected. Columbia Middle School received grant and Rutgers will install rain garden

Peppertown Park: Have been weeding, Lori and Richard will go through the design plan and get the needed plants.

Passaic River Park Crossing: Richard contacted Betty Ann Kelly, hasn't heard back.

Stormwater Ordinance: Richard will remind Bob Bocchino about reviewing the Cranford ordinance.

Dog waste receptacles: No update (Ron not in attendance)

New Development Plan: Planner Mike Mistretta will present green infrastructure plan at next meeting May 16<sup>th</sup>

CSIP grant Grant for the Emerald Ash Borer: Application has been received, we will know in about a month if we have been awarded it.

Arbor Day: Today planted 6 trees at GLHS behind the school above the practice field, halzsia, red buds. Dedication will be Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>, will hopefully get hydration donuts so that they can be watered once a week.

Pilgrim Pipeline: Ed will bring it up again at next town council meeting, need to find out exactly what is expected of the township

Street Fair: Would we be able to give away a tree/shrub at the fair (to a BH resident)? Could purchase a native tree using tree fund. Should include information on rain gardens at the fair (will ask ANJEC or Rutgers for a board or brochure). Richard has not received application yet. Ed Delia proposed native tree or bush for the street fair, motion approved. Cost limited to \$100.

## **New Business**

Application for Flood Hazard Area Verification at

- 40 Russo Place: Want letter of interpretation of freshwater wetlands, open waters, or transition areas from NJDEP. Property is on the edge of the riparian corridor
- Union County Bridge Be-26 on Mountain Ave: Replacing bridge. Comments: have to follow protocol and ask that they replant with native species

Facebook Page: Announce meetings, publicize dedication for Friday, take pictures, environmental tips, weeding events, etc.

## **Plans**

33 Holly Glen Lane South: House not being expanded, not increasing impervious surface, building on top of existing garage. Denied because existing garage already violating setback. EC would ask them to disconnect downspouts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Next meeting is Monday May 2, 2016 at 7:30 PM  
Respectfully submitted by Kinan Tadmori on 5-3-16