

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

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM

Attendees: Richard Leister, Christine Lewis, Kinan Tadmori, Ron Loria, Leonard Berkowitz, Kevin Hall, Mike Mistretta, Grace Wamsteker, Kim Frohman, Dave Ogens, Anita Sheoraj

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 5-2-16 approved

Redevelopment: Consists of two sub-projects: 1) Redevelopment of Park Avenue site to keep downtown in this location, 2) Redevelopment of Hamilton Avenue property obtained from Little Flower. Proposal will be presented at next Town Council meeting (May 24th, 2016) and will hold discussion of environmental/other impacts. Mike Mistretta: document of proposal will be released Friday May 20, 2016. Wetlands delineated on west side of Park Avenue property. Redevelopment conceptual plans prepared: municipal complex to include police, library, and administration, additional parking. Trying to incorporate green design standards as much as possible. Discussed about becoming LEED certified, cost was 8-10% increase to go through the LEED certification process. New streetscape standards will be implemented. Landscaping plan to provide shading throughout the parking lot using native species. Water management: new stormwater management system will be designed as major project under stormwater management rules: underground stormwater filtration system before it is discharged (to wetland). Water collected via drains from storm runoff, rooftop water won't have to be treated – detained in separate chamber and then drained into wetland. Richard asked if rain garden would be feasible at the site as demo garden, Mike said yes but they have not reached that stage of planning. Christine asked if tests for contaminants have been done, Mike said 10 soil borings have been done (12 – 21 feet), got positive results. Wetland delineation reviewed by NJDEP, waiting on LOI (letter of interpretation). Redevelopment plan has to be adopted before design elements can be incorporated (such as vegetation, solar panels, traffic changes, etc.). Library may be closed for a period of time: will find some interim space for children's reading and computer availability.

Scouts: Ron meeting with Scouts tomorrow 5-17-16, Potential projects = Passaic River crossing, rain garden, help clean up Peppertown Park, wildflower meadow. Kevin suggested we act as merit badge council for the scouts to encourage them to get involved with the Environmental Commission.

Community Garden: Christine, Anita, Kim and Grace, plus 3 other people will all be considered board. Grant application was submitted. Deadline was extended so have not found out yet if chosen. Christine edited cost estimate, total budget is approximately \$8,000 for infrastructure (including boxes and irrigation), \$6,100 or parking lot, + \$3,000 for other items (~\$18,000 total). The rental money will pay for

the operating budget. Suggestion is to proceed with the garden and then fundraise later for the parking lot. Ask township to remove a tree in the meantime to make parking more accessible. Next step: Create engineering action plan, review with Bob Bocchino, then present to town administrator and then place it on town council agenda (postpone presenting to Town Council to next meeting on June 14.

Rain Gardens and Watershed Ambassador: No update

Peppertown Park: Have been weeding and planting, Lori Meyer has helped in getting plants, looking to put up signage

Passaic River Park: Richard meeting with Betty Ann Kelly Friday May 20th at 9:30 – walk the park near Robbins Avenue and see what projects need to be done. Volunteers from L’Oreal will work on June 10 from 9 am till noon.

Stormwater Ordinance: Awaiting response from Bob Bocchino. Kevin will remind him.

Pilgrim Pipeline: No Update

Street Fair: Application submitted. List of activities are in previous minutes. Richard waiting to hear back from Rutgers about rain garden poster.

Trash Free Waters: Plastic bag fee was brought up. Look into how it was brought to Longport Township (was their EC involved?) Idea proposed of buying environmental commission reusable bags and distributing them to residents to use. Kinan will look into cost of bags.

Plans

64 Hampton Drive: Second car garage additional storage (increasing from 23.2% coverage to 29.1% coverage), in zone that allows 25%. Comments: should not be allowed to exceed impervious cover, if application is approved stormwater must be controlled in some way (Dry well, rain garden, etc.).

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Next meeting is June 6th, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Kinan Tadmori on 5-19-2016