

DRAFT Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
9-12-2016

Meeting called to order at 7:45 PM

Attendees: Richard Leister, Ed Delia, Ed Delia, David Ogens, Christine Lewis, Helen Kirsch, Jaime Salazar

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 8-22-16 approved

Meeting called to order 7:45 PM

Community Garden: Richard contacted state DEP and discovered that we do need to file a "change of purpose" document and have the town approve a resolution adding the garden to the intended purposes of the Green Acres space. Christine needs to set up an appointment time with Richard, Kevin and Anita Shoeraj to discuss how to move the project forward. Ed Delia suggested using an empty lot on Bridge Street near the waste facility, for the garden, but it was determined not to have sufficient parking.

Environmental Movies: Christine will reach out to Lara Mendenhall and James Finley to set up a time for an environmental movie this winter.

Scout Projects: No update.

Rain gardens: Richard will find out if there is leftover money from the HS project to apply towards a Rutgers-assisted rain garden at Columbia MS. Richard will also contact Sustainable Jersey about Rain Garden rebates for homeowners.

Peppertown Park: Richard is putting out a call for weeding assistance at the park.

Stormwater Ordinance: Richard has been reminding DPW to move forward with that but has yet to receive a response.

Dog Waste Receptacles: No update. Remove from agenda. Side note: Richard – Sustainable Jersey has action related to caring for animals in town. Could involve a town resolution. Ron will look at Sustainable Jersey action.

CSIP Grant for EAB: Richard will request that contractors approved to carry out the treatments offer residents same pricing for treatments on private ash trees.

Sustainable Jersey: Richard recapped that we need 350 points in order to maintain Silver Status in the Sustainable Jersey program, that we should try to get 400. Richard proceeded to go over the list of existing actions that have either been completed and will count towards the total or that are in-process and can be easily completed. Richard will keep track of the action items. The biggest action item is to

recreate the Green Team and have a resolution passed by the town. Helen will check into Lead Education and Outreach based on recently initiated lead pipe and water testing at the district schools. Len will initiate the energy tracking initiative. The township administrator needs to update the municipal buildings inventory and upgrades. Possible outreach campaign to local business community via Suburban Chamber of Commerce. Christine to look into EV charging station. Jaime will review Waste Reduction.

Watershed ambassador: Katie Ellis is no longer watershed ambassador, but we don't know who the new one is. Richard will try to find out.

Green Challenge Program - (carrying this forward from the 8-1-2016 minutes)
Kinan will be taking the lead on this as part of environmental stewardship project.

- Flyer – who what where when, colorful flyer – town council presentation, give them to the library
- Advertise to have them go to link to go to survey
- Paper vs. digital pledge – try as many avenues as possible
- Does it need incentive
- Name and address to confirm they live in Berkeley Heights
- Deborah will look into website

(This is from the 8-1-2016 minutes) Dog Park in Berkeley Heights: Stephen brought up idea of dog park in Berkeley Heights. Lower Columbia Park is potential location that people have mentioned. Could help to control pet waste. Could potentially apply for grants for dog park. Also brought up desire for more biking and walking paths. Connell is putting in walking and biking paths. Would need to determine exactly where path could go and then apply for grants.

Plans

Reviewed 101 Twin Falls Rd – no issues with the application as there is no increase in the impervious coverage on the property

Reviewed Rosehill and Lenox application for construction of commercial nursery – EC to request a Letter of Interpretation be obtained by owners of the property as the property may contain a portion of wetlands buffer zone.

Reviewed Debbie Pl – The Commission does not recommend that this application be approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lewis on October 2, 2016.