

**Berkeley Heights Environmental
Commission**
Minutes of the Monday, January 23, 2023 Meeting

Attendees

Commissioners:

(X) Angus Chen AC (X) Renee Ciesla RC (X) Kimberly Diamond KD
(X) David Harris DH (X) Richard Leister RL () John Leo JL
(X) Alvaro Medeiros AM (X) Nirit Rotenberg NR (X) Eduardo Veyan EV

Guests: Thomas Foregger

Meeting called to order at 7:31 p.m.

- 1) Approval of minutes for January 9, 2023 Held over to next meeting
- 2) Hearing on agenda items only - 3 minutes per resident None spoke
- 3) New Business: None
- 4) Plans: None
- 5) Old Business:
 - a) Scout projects: no updates
 - b) Community Garden: no updates
 - c) Stormwater Ordinance and MS4 Education status: no update
 - d) Adopt a Drain: KD spoke with Lois Kraus from Westfield on start date TBD; also reached out to Jenni Abere, chair of national commission about other challenges conducted
 - e) Sustainable Jersey Actions
 - i) Winter Walk: AC working this
 - ii) Emergency Planning: NR Working on this
 - iii) Arts action owner: TBD
 - iv) NRI: DH Obtained examples from ANJEC and believes we need to work with Drew on this and also has reached out for cost to Land Conservancy and two consultants - Debbie Kratzer and (TBA)
 - f) Tree Ordinance: Councilman Couto has requested an update; AM updated language and suggests sharing with entire TC; updates are minimal (hardship language added and lowered proposed charge for non-replacement); included summary of nearby Town codes
 - g) Peppertown Park: KD seeking BHEC member to replace her as she can no longer attend meeting dates; RL to contact Chair about meetings
 - h) Recycling and Clean ups: AM has been unable to work on grant due 2/16
 - i) Topics for the township newsletter: AC hasn't received a reply from Councilman Kingsley
 - j) Passaic River Park (Berkeley Caterers) and Trails: DH hasn't received a reply for County
 - k) GLHS & Watchung: see below
 - l) Leaf Blower Ordinance: RL will remove this due to inaction
 - m) Climate Change Planning and Toolkit: RL reports that it is now a state law that every municipality review and report on risks associated with Climate Change

- n) Resolutions from the Boards: RL shared Planning Board resolution from Connell which includes plans to include Rain Gardens
 - o) Grants - RGGI Grant: Berkeley Heights received award for \$721k to plant trees; largest award received in BH; Highly complex application made possible by the iTree application; meeting tomorrow to kick off planning; RL has reached out to Dan Bernier; DH recommends adding this topic to the newsletter; publicity surrounding this award and the opportunity to have trees planted on rights of way throughout the township is very important; RL also spoke with Stephanie Bakos about joining the BHEC meeting of February 6th to discuss how the BHPL can help communicate Environmental issues
 - p) Urban Forest Tree Credits: no updates
 - q) Tree Recovery Campaign: AC sending a summary of the 2022 results reflecting counts and types of saplings distributed. DH reports plan is to conduct distribution on April 22 (pickup on 4/20) and will budget 2 trees per household
- 6) Citizens hearing on any environmental issues - 3 minutes. Resident Tom Foregger is now the liaison from Board of Education to BHEC; RL asks that Mr. Foregger inquire about the availability of a water spigot near the GL site for Tree planting.

Motion to adjourn by DH at 8:10 p.m.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 6 , 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Alvaro Medeiros