

## Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission

### Minutes of Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm Meeting

Attendees: Richard Leister, David Harris, Renee Ciesla, Chris Scalera, Alvaro Medeiros (Guest), Kimberley Diamond, Kevin Hall, Angus Chen (via phone)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

- 1) Minutes from December 2<sup>nd</sup> and January 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting were approved.
- 2) Girl Scout Silver Award Environmental Project
  - Troop 40178 presented their project to achieve a Silver Environmental Award using the attached slides



Girl Scout Silver  
Award Presentation I

- Main goal is to make upcycle t-shirts to become more sustainable in BH. Asked EC on recommendations and help with Planning an event to help advertise.
  - Girl scouts tested t-shirts for durability – will provide guidance on weight limit.
  - Another goal is to develop a pamphlet about how to upcycle t-shirts.
  - T-shirt collection locally is ongoing.
  - EC Thoughts:
    - Article on BH TAP – more widespread per Kevin. Girl Scouts would Need help with publicizing, TAP into, posters,
    - Would like help organize an event – potentially at Elementary schools around Earth Day
    - Consider BH PTO blast
    - Setup a t-shirt email address
  - Angus will create subpage on EC website to post information on this project
  - AI: GS to send slides.
- 3) Hearing on agenda items only - 3 minutes per resident - none
  - 4) Old Business
    - a. Scout projects – new leadership of Troop 68; Chris has reached out. No future scout projects
    - b. Stormwater Ordinance – John, David, Richard, Tom Solfaro, Liza met. Tom reviewing drafted ordinance. Sump pump ordinance will be separate and will cover plan for existing and future sump pumps. Next meeting TBD. Waiting for notes from Liza. 3<sup>rd</sup> priority: grading of soil on new developments and impact to slope, change in runoff, etc.. Rahway ordinance is being used as the model for stormwater ordinance.

- c. Sustainable Jersey
  - i. Green Team – Need to update to achieve silver
  - ii. Mayor’s Wellness Campaign – SJ action submission TBD. Alvaro submitted to Mayor’s Wellness commission. Tiffany Escott introduced TransOptions options for seniors – GoGo Grandma, Safe Driving Habits. These will be presented to Senior Advisory Board and at an upcoming Senior club.
- d. Master Plan – meeting of sub-committee of Planning Board held on 1/22/20. Kevin has communicated that online survey was sent out. Next Step – meet 1:1 with all impacted. Planning board to attend next meeting February 17, 2020, or March 9, 2020 meeting.
- e. Tree Ordinance – 2 plans coming up are calling for removal of over 300 trees. Ordinance needs to be revised.
- f. Peppertown Park – Tom Barton retiring June 2020. Draining issue still needs to be addressed. Park will need to be redesigned. Donovan – Big tree will be placed towards parking. Art for the park will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at new YMCA. \$75 per booth to promote more artistic qualities. Kim to obtain copy of new plan for comment by EC.
- g. Recycling
  - i. Mayor’s Recycling taskforce –Meeting with Giordano revealed that recycling contracts will be expensive. Giordano does not have truck to manage use of carts, therefore cannot realize savings. There is a meeting taking place in February 5, 2020 with Middlesex County Utilities Authority to discuss whether their solution could be an option for BH. Alvaro, Angus and Renee will attend.
  - ii. Trex bins –passed 11,300 lbs collected of thin film plastics collected. Installation of benches – have been accruing benches. Tom Barton will install 2 benches on Sansone Field. 4 benches in lower Columbia Park. One bench by CMS by Upper Columbia Softball field. Mayor Angie asked that benches be installed at Passaic Park. Amount TBD and she will work with county.
- h. Ordinance re: Restrictions on Plastic Bags, Plastic Straws, and Polystyrene Containers. **Ordinance Passed 5:1**. Ordinance clarification includes: plastic bags restricted at the point of sale for checked out items. Paper bags will be available for sale between 5-25 cents. Reusable will be given for fee or sold at store discretion to help offset cost of having to supply plastic bags. Richard reported that Bag Maker has a good bag which cost \$1.50/bag without logo.
- i. Joint meeting among environmental commissions: Kim spoke with Summit EC and previously helped sponsor environmental fashion show. Looking for events that will draw more than one town. Clothes made from recyclable materials. Held at arboretum previously – considering new location.
- j. Topics for the township newsletter, with revised month assignments:

Renee submitted article for Feb newsletter on salt / ice-melt considerations for the environment.

David to draft article for May on riparian zones, with link to municipal code.

- k. Municipal Complex and stormwater –NJ American water grant can be applied for a rain garden or bioswale if installed at Municipal Complex
- l. Government Energy Aggregation – nothing to report.
- m. Climate Action Plan Survey – nothing to report.
- n. Passaic River Park – Kim went out with Betty Ann Kelly and looked at several areas to survey amount of litter. Not enough to warrant cleanups. Locust area. Watchung Way and Runnells – much litter to be picked up. Betty Ann checking if this is County property, If county property – they can help sponsor cleanup.
- o. Chemtrade – nothing new to report
- p. Budget: nothing new to report
- q. Partnering with Rec. Commission for DEP Grant Application re: Lower Columbia Park's Trails - to possibly include permeable paving, signage for plants. Kim to check with Debbie Varnerin regarding DPW's installation of signage for Greenacres.
- r. NJ Clean Communities Grant – Tom Barton to confirm whether the Recreation Department can track/keep records on the Township's platform regarding who participates at specific clean-ups throughout the year, so that a donation can be given to the non-profit of choice of people who have participated in two or more clean-ups annually.

5) New Business: None

5) Citizens hearing on any environmental issues -3 minutes per resident – none.

6) Plans:

- a. NJ American Water – applicant came back and accepted most of EC's recommendations – trees should be native, guaranteed to survive at least 1 year otherwise replaced, planting of native scrubs.
- b. 415 Emerson Lane: expand driveway increase other coverage to 14.3% over. Total impervious under allotted amount. Slope in 0-3 %. High recharge area. Recommend rain garden next to driveway, use of pervious pavers to keep coverage 10% or less

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 PM.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 17, 2020, at 7:30 pm.