

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
January 7, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM

Attendees:

Members: Richard Leister, Kim Diamond, Kinan Tadmori, Kevin Hall, David Harris, Angus Chen, Renee Ciesla, Mitchell Gayer

Guests:

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from December 10, 2018 approved

New Business

- Renee Ciesla and Angus Chen have been appointed to Environmental Commission
- Kevin Hall's term will end December 2019
- Could rotate members of the EC to give updates at Township Council meetings

Environmental Commission Training: new members should take the ANJEC training

Old Business

Community Garden

- Fence has been installed at the site
- Mitchell will look into wood shed
- Turf was not yet removed, Richard will follow up with new DPW director
- Need to establish calendar for kicking off the garden
 - Master Gardeners sale occurs in May, might be able to put in order ahead of time
- Need to receive applications from Tom Barton
- Township Engineer needs to recommend that water meter is put under Environmental Commission
- Need to establish contact with Scouts – Kevin will reach out to Alvaro
- Richard spoke to plumber to run a spigot with a lock on it, and run hose or piping to the garden. Would have the meter be under Township name and we would pay for the water. Richard asked plumber for estimate

Environmental Movies: Kim contacted ANJEC. Cannot show the movies on GLTV. Movies are generally geared towards junior high or above level.

Scout Projects: Kevin will reach out to Alvaro.

Stormwater Ordinance: Stormwater Ordinance as it is covers major developments, but not smaller properties, other towns have ordinances that cover situations where a property is exceeding impervious surface. Richard will send us copy of a sample ordinance.

Sustainable Jersey: Grant application due February 15th. Everyone should take a look at options to apply for. Potentially could do a project with plastics.

Master Plan: Nothing to report. Township has retained a new planner but Mike Mistretta will be retained to complete Master Plan.

Tree Ordinance: Nothing to report.

Stream Clean Up: New Jersey Clean Communities Program starts March 1st

Peppertown Park: Nothing to report.

Smart Cities: Smart Cities Connect has \$50,000 grant but application process is intensive and due January 20th. Will consider doing next year.

Recycling: Plastics discussion – vision for 2019 for EC to focus on plastics and to get Town Council, Board of Ed, and Chamber of Commerce involved. Would be good to have someone from Township Council to act as liaison. David mentioned that NYC and some towns in NJ have implemented expanded polystyrene ban. Will likely be a cost for businesses associated with making a switch from Styrofoam. Should speak to members of TC, Board of Ed, Chamber of Commerce.

Plastic Bag Recycling: Rotary Club taking over collection tomorrow. Mountain Park Elementary School is conducting its own separate Trex collection as part of national school-wide challenge.

Resolution on Plastic Bags: Nothing to report.

Joint meeting between Environmental Commissions: Facilitated by Sustainable Jersey, will be held January 28th

New Business

Nokia Bell Labs: Richard sent email to Town Council in regards to open space. Should be engaged in discussion early on. Zoned for commercial research, would need to be rezoned for other use.

Chemtrade: Richard looked at NJDEP website – no plan for disposal of material. Richard wrote to plant manager and is awaiting reply. Otherwise could contact NJDEP. Might be good to have plant manager come back periodically to update us.

Plans

32 Roosevelt Ave

Findings of Fact: Previously reviewed application when it was incomplete, now complete. Existing coverage is 30.5% (max is 25%). Proposed lot coverage is 32.28%. Adding a deck, lowering existing basement floor, adding fireplace. Located at edge of

flood one. Recharge is 6-12 inches. Slope is 3-8%. Located within 150-ft buffer of a wetland.

Recommendations: Ask whether any trees are to be removed and where the sump pump is draining to. Reconcile numbers on application with numbers on plans for % changes in impervious surface.

200 Connell Drive

Findings of Fact: Previously reviewed application but it has since been changed. Revised to convert the SW building access drive from a cul-de-sac to a square configuration to provide additional parking. Lot is located at the edge of a brook. Slope varies, steep in some areas then becomes flat. Brook could be wood turtle habitat, not confirmed. 0-12 inches recharge depending on location within property. Most of the site is less than 6 inches. Increasing impervious coverage by 0.4 acres.

Recommendations: EC recommends that pervious pavers are used. Include more trees or shrubbery along perimeter of parking area. Trees should be native.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for January 21st, 2019 at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kinan Tadmori on January 19, 2019