

Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission

MINUTES for Monday, February 7, 2022 at 7:32 pm

Attendees:

BHEC Members: Richard Leister, Alvaro Medeiros, Angus Chen, David Harris, Nirit Rotenberg, Kim Diamond, John Leo, Renee Ciesla
Guests: Steve Carrellas

- 1) Welcome Eduardo Veyan
 - a) Eduardo wasn't in attendance.
- 2) Approve Minutes for January 10th, 24th
 - a) Minutes not approved.
- 3) Hearing on agenda items only - 3 minutes per resident
 - a) No comments
- 4) New Business:
 - a) Scout projects - Emma Gleeson is looking for a project equivalent to fulfill Girl Scout equivalent of Eagle Scout project.
 - b) John Leo suggests a list for volunteers, in particular trail projects. Alvaro suggests rain gardens.
- 5) Model resolution to adopt regulations. A lobby wants to restrict what municipalities can do to implement more stringent stormwater regulations. ANJEC proposes a resolution to oppose such restrictions. David moves that the EC propose that the township adopt this resolution. No second.
- 6) Plans:
 - a) 162 Kline Blvd, minor subdivision. Alvaro questioned the coverage numbers. EC will comment that the lot size for 1.02 does not seem to provide for additional amenities such as a shed or patio. It appears any increase in impervious surface will require a variance. Motion to approve with amendment, seconded and accepted
 - b) 410 (Rear) Springfield Avenue Unit 410D (Freedom Doggie Care). Motion to accept recommendation as written.
 - c) 725 Mountain Ave. Motion to approve recommendation of Feb 7 accepted.
 - d) 45 Maple Ave. Motion to approve recommendation is seconded and accepted.
- 7) Old Business:
 - a) Bylaws. Discussion held off
 - b) Eagle Scout Project at Community Garden has township council approval. He has to contact state of NJ.
 - c) Community Garden. Shed is unstable. It will be moved next year. Meeting proposed on changes. Herb garden could be a volunteer opportunity
 - d) Stormwater Ordinance. No news
 - e) Adopt a Drain. Mentioned in an ANJEC report.

- f) Sustainable Jersey Actions
 - i) Expired Actions
 - (1) Alvaro changing Health and Wellness to focus on seniors
 - (2) Nirit and Angus will talk with businesses on reusable bags.
 - ii) SJ Grant for Rain Gardens. Application sent around for comments. Deadline is Friday.
 - g) Tree Ordinance. Waiting for Manny Couto and Jeff Varnerin to make comments on latest version.
 - h) Peppertown Park. No report from Kim.
 - i) Lower Columbia Park. DPW was to skim off turf, but equipment sank into the ground.
 - j) Recycling Kim reports that TREX has special requirements, including a truck, to deliver thin-film plastics to the TREX aggregation facility. There is no middle ground David proposed that people just be told to drop off the plastics at grocery stores. Kim agreed. Deliver to Stop and Shop, Acme, Shoprite and Home Depot. Six TREX benches are to be delivered to Lower Columbia by Friday.
 - k) Topics for the township newsletter
 - i) Stormwater management education. Short blurb on trees proposed. Trees will be installed in May. People need to request trees by Feb 27.
 - l) Passaic River Park. Dan Bernier shared the master plan for PRP.
 - m) GLHS environmental club working on sustainability.
 - n) Projects with Watershed Ambassador
 - i) Set for a rain barrel workshop in the middle of March
 - ii) David has talked with Sydney Abraham about invasive species.
 - o) Deadline for tree recovery campaign for 1,000 trees is Feb 17, according to Alvaro. Distribution would be April 23 with pickup on April 21. Angus offers to help organize the distribution. Rene can offer confirmation candidates to volunteer on April 23. Time is from 11a.m. to 2p.m..
 - p) David in discussion with county for clean up along Sky Top Drive. Target date late March.
 - q) Richard asks Angus to post EC annual report.
 - r) Kim announced Union County reorganization meeting at 7 tomorrow.
- 8) Citizens hearing on any environmental issues - 3 minutes per residents.
 - 9) Steve Carrellas says he will communicate with township on rock salt issues. He asks if anyone else has this issue. Discussion on whether to express concern about salt in streets. Basic agreement not to express concern.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Submitted by John Leo, February 22th, 2022. Revised on June 9, 2022 by Richard Leister on basis of video recording .