

Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
May 16, 2022

Commissioners:

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| (X) Angus Chen | (X) Renee Cielsa | (X) Kimberly Diamond |
| (X) David Harris | (X) Richard Leister | (X) John Leo |
| (X) Alvaro Medeiros | (X) Nirit Rotenberg | (X) Eduardo Veyan |

Guests: Steve Carrellas and Olivia Ward and Hayden Cear

1) Minutes for April 18, May 2 not approved

2) Hearing on agenda items only - 3 minutes per resident no comments

3) New Business:

a. GI Presentation will be postponed to next meeting

b. Summer Block Party on June 5 Township will have a booth; motion to include EC in Township booth (propose to have bags given out).

c. Trail Funding (Nature Conservancy): grant opportunity deadline TBA

d. Leaf Blower Ordinance: Lois Kraus from Westfield (part of hub) has asked about BHEC participation in upcoming meetings on these researching and or following up on upcoming ordinances. Princeton is apparently moving to ban all mechanical leaf blowers. Lois asking for input from Berkeley Hts. Meetings have historically met nights that overlap with BHEC; Rich to confirm meeting time. John proposed soft enforcement through education to enforce noise ordinance through education; similar to storm water ordinance; John will look at whether landscapers are required to register. Concerns voiced about enforcement challenge.

4) Plans: 46 Winchip: recommendation to use GI approved.

5) Old Business:

a. Scout projects: no updates

i. Proposed projects: no additions to John's list; Richard suggests and David concurs that this list should include all volunteer opportunities

b. Community Garden: no updates from Renee.

i Richard reports that he received word from automated drip irrigation company that control failed and needs replacement.

ii Scout project for Path for community is in funding stage

c. Stormwater Ordinance and MS4 Education status: Richard will follow up with Tom Solfaro on SO; MS4 update: John shared outreach program from surrounding towns; BH qualified for 15 points in 2021 with Adopt a drain, rain barrel program, cleanup and others. (Google doc shared has formatting issues so John will download into a word doc); there should be PR events associated with each

d. Adopt a Drain: no updates; BH News was unable to print article at same time as TapInto but Kim expects it to appear next week

e. Sustainable Jersey Actions: Richard working on green team action; Nirit to update Kevin Halls Township Assets

i. Expired Actions: deadline next year

ii. SJ Grant for Rain Gardens was not awarded; meeting planned on 5/22

(Alvaro registered?)

f. Tree Ordinance email reminder sent to TC members

g. Trees Wanted: will be delivered this Friday (note that vendor is responsible for call before you dig). Richard recommends to say the depth of a planting be 3 feet when you call before you plant a sapling or young tree. The reason: if you tell “Call before you dig” that the depth is on foot, they will not mark out. But for three feet, they will. Then you’ll know if you are planting over an underground utility.

Saplings contributes to tree action as well as above

Salem Oak was planted at GL HS behinds electronics sign

g. Peppertown Park: nothing to report

h. Recycling and Clean ups: nothing to report

i. Topics for the township newsletter

i. Stormwater management education

ii. Mosquitoes: motion to draft a letter to Moshield about their practice and copying township attorney and administrator.

Additional should have been fertilizing information that was sent to Liza (John to follow up); Angus will send to Tap as well

j. Passaic River Park: John reports that he would like to conduct events in 2022; a candidate event would like the Fire Trail Guy who is walking to Goethals bridge; needs “trailblazer volunteers” to scout Passaic River and develop a “to do” list; John would like to establish a trailblazer subcommittee on BHEC in view of the interest the Township leadership has expressed in Trailblazers and passive recreation; Kim suggests having that under the Green Team which would incorporate DBC and other committees; Discussion about Green Team ensued which hasn’t been formed but needs to be as part of Sustainable Jersey initiative. Angus mentioned a SJ action related to trails. Richard suggests that Trailblazers be organized similarly to the Community Garden. John will discuss with Mayor and Township administrator the formation of a trailblazer organization.

k. GLHS: Richard has been working with Dan Bernier on Tiny Forest at GLHS; has contacted the school board but not heard back. He has been in contact with Anthony Amiano; ANJEC Grant applied for to fund protective fence for saplings; County Commissioner Kowalsky might be able to help with county budget.

l. Issue raised about crossing guards stopping traffic for individual children. Alvaro will send an email to PD Chief about training and having crossing guards gather children before stopping traffic to cross.

m. Last six Trex benches were delivered to lower Columbia finalizing BHEC Trex efforts

6) Citizens hearing on any environmental issues - 3 minutes per resident.

Hayden Cear would like to know how he can participate with BHEC; Richard proposes Tree survey, and Hayden is interested

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.