

# **Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission**

October 7, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM

## **Attendees**

**Members:** Richard Leister, Kim Diamond, David Harris, Kinan Tadmori, John Leo, Renee Ciesla, Angus Chen (as of 9:30)

**Guests:** Alvaro Medeiros, Watershed Ambassador Kristen Andrada,, Chris Scalera

## **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from September 23rd were not approved pending final review.

## **Old Business**

### **Community Garden**

- Richard- Steve Martin, Karen Anzalone met. The Garden Committee to take more responsibility of the garden
- Renee - January 2020 will have community garden rules
- Rich awaiting response on autumn plants supplied by Groundwork Elizabeth
- Kim suggests a book exchange and some discussion about pollinators
- Guest Chris offered to help with the community garden

### **Environmental Movies**

- Kim mentions that Watchung High School is showing a family environmental movie
- Recommends partnering with Watchung to mimic efforts

### **Scout Projects**

- Nothing new to report.

### **Stormwater Ordinance**

- Nothing new to report.

### **Sustainable Jersey**

- **Green Team -**
  - Kim reminded attendees to vote on Berkeley Heights Sustainable Jersey video
- **Mayor's Wellness Campaign**
  - Alvaro intends to follow up with Board of Health.

### **Master Plan**

- Alvaro reports that it was recommended that the electronic version be posted online and available for input.

### **Tree Ordinance**

- Richard spoke to Tom Bocko to review Tree Ordinance draft
- Richard recommends referring to a subject matter expert (arborist) for input on the verbiage.

- Discussion ensued on permits required to remove trees and a communication piece will be drafted for the newsletter
- EC website needs a link to the DEP certified tree experts

### **Peppertown Park**

- Dead trees to be removed.

### **Recycling**

- **Mayor's Recycling Task Force:**
  - Taskforce attended the BH Color Run and discussion ensued about resident feedback
  - David will create a new newsletter article to help with recycling confusion found via feedback
- **Plastics Reduction**
  - Some discussion about the details on a draft Plastic Reduction Ordinance
  - Richard - state legislation is not moving forward with plastic ban bill, ANJEC is suggesting local towns move forward
  - David - ordinance draft should be similar to neighboring towns to minimize consumer aggravation

### **Trex Bins**

- Pet Supplies location is burdened by overflow
- Kim suggests a website visual to illustrate the collections of plastics via Trex program

### **Clean-Ups**

- Kim suggests a clean up in conjunction with NJ Clean Communities Council to access grant funding
- David suggested consistent date for clean ups

### **Joint Commissions meetings**

- Next meeting open to Commissions October 30th, 7PM, Westfield First Congregational Church

### **Tree Survey Class** - Meeting on Thursday, October 10th at 7PM

- A class on identifying and tracking trees using modern software given by a certified tree expert.
- Open to Berkeley Heights Residents in BH town hall meeting room

### **Topics for the Township Newsletter**

- David and Rene to collaborate on recycling article, as discussed above.
- Richard to draft announcement on tree permits.

### **Municipal Complex and Stormwater**

- Nothing new to report.

### **Government Energy Aggregation**

- Nothing new to report.

## **Climate Action Plan Survey, Sustainable Princeton**

- Nothing new to report.

## **New Business**

### **ANJEC Meeting**

- Richard and Kim attended the meeting and gave a short summary. All meeting information may be available on ANJEC website.
- 2109 ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award awarded to Berkeley Heights for 2018 VeganFest

### **Residential Pollinator gardens**

- To be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Mosquito Spraying**

- Committee discussed possible consequences associated with planned aerial spraying scheduled to control a mosquito-borne disease
- Committee agrees to ensure the town leadership consults a county health specialist if not already done so on the environmental threats of Duet HD
- Committee requests that the town leadership communicate its own protocol for responding to similar health events

## **Plans**

Industrial Road Agreed to not include recommendation for blue roof.

### 246 Washington Street

reduce ancillary impervious areas to bring into compliance. Disconnect any existing stormwater pipes from previous structure attached to street curb.

### 173 Chaucer Drive

Protect the riparian zone with native vegetation. Slope driveway toward lawn. Disconnect any existing stormwater pipes attached to street curb.

### 713 Plainfield Avenue

Commission discussed possible traffic pattern changes due to the new distribution of Diesel fuel.

Ensure DEP regulations are followed for in-ground tank replacements. Create rain garden to capture roof runoff.

## **MOTION**

Motion to adjourn meeting: David

Second to motion: Kinan

Meeting is adjourned at 10:05 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by John Leo Jr on October 11th, 2019