

## **Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes**

Oct 13, 2014

Present: B. Albergo, J. Bay, M. Gossett, J. Horan, A. Rankin, K. Sheikh, M. Vyff

Members of the Public: D. McWilliams

Membership: Jackie announced that she and Todd Terhune would be stepping down in December. Khizar Sheikh agreed to accept the Chair position. The EC will have 2 openings in 2015.

### **Commission Projects**

Sustainable Jersey: Marnie outlined her group's achievement to receive Silver certification. She reported that we were extended a 5 point credit and that she intended to pursue a green grounds policy resolution and a xxx to achieve the necessary points by the Nov 21 deadline. She will go before Council on Oct 27 to ask for the green grounds resolution and to tell them that we have achieved Silver. Jackie to host a celebratory cocktail party. Marnie also reported that there are new grants available for \$10K and \$35K. The DPW is interested in pursuing those grants to re-do the heating systems. The deadline is Nov 5.

Waterview: Margaret reported that the county open space committee appraisal came in lower than the application's appraisal. This means that Parsippany would have to amend the application and increase their financial participation. It is hoped/rumored that this application will not be approved and a settlement will not be achieved.

MLenvironmental.org Update: Jackie reported that she has yet to complete the template for the new Borough website. She shared the template with the group and explained that it is a snapshot of our website and that it will link through to the existing site. The launch date for the new Borough site is supposed to be Nov 15 so Jackie will finish the template and circulate it with the minutes.

Bill shared that in the projects Phase 2, independent site content will be brought into the Borough site. Margaret reported that the MCPRIMA links to the GIS maps are broken so it appears that the pilot project is over and without reporting it to the Commission, the County is no longer allowing access to the information. Jackie promised to follow up with the County.

Cove Project: Jackie reported that Mr. Tovo had told Council at that week's meeting that the Cove project Phase 2 was officially over. Water access was expanded, more hardscape was added, plants changed "as needed" and new trees were planted. Margaret expressed disappointment that the cove was no longer an educational project about riparian buffers because there was too much hardscape. She also reported that in the process of doing this phase 2, Round Up weed killer was used even though the park lies at the waters' edge. She felt that plants were replaced that did not need to be and thus, taxpayers were essentially paying twice for this project. Bill reported that other members of the original cove committee had had the same feedback.

### Villa Development Applicaiton

The Planning Board will meet for probably the last time this Thursday on the Villa application. John reported that the last meeting entertained substantial discussion around traffic and lighting issues as well as water usage. He shared that Board attorney Peter Henry had told

the Planning Board that it was not within their rights to put in water restrictions because so long as the Borough has the water, it is available upon a first come, first serve basis. Only Council can require water restrictions. The owners have, however, agreed to do offsite laundry, no pool and spa use for guests only in an attempt to restrict water usage.

The EC discussed what information gaps existed per our Jul 14 memo to the Planning Board. The first point asks for verification that our wells refill to firm capacity expectations in the absence of well #5. This data has been requested in the past and not delivered. Bill put out another requested to Mr. Tovo and the data will go to Margaret for analysis when it arrives.

Secondly, the July memo questioned the developer's water usage projections that appeared low versus Bill Ryden's internal assessment and numbers commonly found online. John shared that we do not have to be concerned as the application will go to the DEP who is tasked with checking the assumptions and ultimately approving the water usage. Another point asked for historical monthly water usage data to see how frequently the Borough approaches the 30MM gallon/day cap. John provided this data and Jackie layered in the projected water usage of the new project. It was determined that the new hotel would not have put us over the cap historically, however, as late as July 2012 it would have left us with a surplus of only 1.17 million gallons.

Given the new information and restrictions provided, the EC agreed to accept an idea put forward by Khizar to request that the owner agree to "stand by" their water usage numbers. This implies that some kind of penalty would be enacted if they surpassed their projections. In the absence of this commitment, John will vote no on the application.

Recycling: Mimi reported via email that there is much activity at all 3 schools. Wildwood will benefit from an anti-idling video created by the MLPD. Their garden is being planted and the kindergarten composting project will hopefully expand to other classrooms and cafeteria. Mrs. Azar has been contacted about beginning a true recycling push in Wildwood. At Briarcliff a composting plan is in the works and enforcement cameras are to be placed near the dumpsters. At MLHS the new hallway recycling receptacles continue to be used.

Doug shared with the group the old Municipal Garbage Committee's priorities in the hopes that they would not be forgotten within the EC's work. #1 Make sure a tall green kitchen recycling bag is eventually achieved; #2 Create a bulk trash curb side pick up day in place of the current expensive onsite program; #3 Forge a new relationship with Boonton Township regarding a shared DPW recycling program; #4 Institute an onsite DPW recycling education person devoted to working with residents to increase understanding; #5 Keep recycling dry so as to improve its value.

Jackie asked that Mimi follow up with Mr. Prusina at the next DPW meeting regarding his intention to increase hauler recycling compliance.

## **Committee & Commission Reports**

Shade Tree Commission: Marnie reported that STC has completed its tree survey and that members are attending training for the new iTree computer program.

Lakes Committee: Bill reported that the 2014 year end presentation by Allied Biological will be presented to the public in March of next year. He confirmed that 2014 was an outstanding

year for water clarity, however, clarity = more weeds. He also reported that a new beaver lodge has been constructed and that trappers have been engaged to trap 3 beavers.

Woodlands Committee: Margaret reported that the new deer management season will begin in November.

## **New Business**

Whippany Watershed Road Sign: Margaret reported that the Whippany Watershed has asked for permission to post a sign on Intervale Road in Mountain Lakes. The objective of the sign is to educate motorists that they are entering a key watershed area because the Troy Brook is a tributary to our water source. Bill asked that Margaret write up a rationale as to why the sign is important and submit it to Council.

2015 EC Goals: Bill shared that a memo will go out shortly asking Committees and Commissions for their next year goals. Jackie will forward this to Khizar when it arrives. Bill also suggested that we review our charter and make any necessary changes such as folding in the municipal recycling oversight.