

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2013

Attendees: J. Bay, M. Gossett, A. Rankin and M. Vyff,
Members of the public: None

EC Business

Well Head Protection: No news on status of re-doing borough maps to include Parsippany's tiers. The Commission continues to recommend that Mountain Lakes use the existing tiered policy and GPS mapping standards to facilitate easy ordinance approval through the DEP.

Sustainable Jersey: Marnie reported that the Green Team is moving towards June 2014 submission with all final materials due by December.

- Recycling: Per Mimi Kaplan, the municipal garbage team is in need of re-invigoration. The team has not met for some times and the Borough doesn't seem to be hitting our recycling goals. Instead of making \$10K a year from controlling our recyclables, it appears that we are making roughly \$400. A big part of this continues to be compliance at the schools. For example, she sited research that proves that custom recycling bins that prevent co-mingling of garbage - but our schools continue to use open top bins that produce contaminated recyclables.
- Community Gardens: Mimi has met with Mr. Fleming from Briarcliff about resuscitating the two existing gardens at the school. Mrs. Anderson's garden PEP appears to be performing well.
- Green Reels: The EC-led movie programs are complete however, Mr. Price shows films in his high school Sustainability class. Marnie believes that attendance to movie events is difficult to achieve and believes that articles will reach more individuals.
- Refillable water bottle stations: Units were installed in Wildwood and Briarcliff; Jackie to follow up with Lea Borin and Mr. Fleming about the status of this project.
- Gardens: Margaret reported that invasive scotch broom was planted in the new Briarcliff garden.

She reported that grant money is available but the deadline is Jan 26, 2014. Marnie has a meeting Dec 10 with Mr. Tovo and will produce an updated green team project list for the next meeting.

Committee Liaison Reports

Lakes Committee: Allison reported that the year end report from Allied Biological revealed that our lakes enjoyed an unprecedented water quality summer. 2013 witnessed our second wettest spring on record followed by a bone-dry July. The canal clean up was expected to produce increased levels of turbidity. All of these events would have been expected to product sub-par water quality but it did not materialize. In fact, there were no chemical treatments administered in any lakes during the season. **ALLISON: I thought I remembered you saying this but doesn't seem possible – please clarify.** Success is attributed to the Island Beach lifeguards/DPW doing a better job of cleaning the beach and the fact that the summer was not as hot as others. She also reported that there is new beaver damage noted at Birchwood.

Other Business:

- New Villa Hotel: Evidently this project has come up before and was turned down. The EC has expressed concern about the availability of water during July, our most water-intensive month or should NJ enter drought conditions. The water usage numbers will have to be watched closely. The owner will look for tax reduction.

- Waterview: RD Realty has filed a lawsuit claiming that the Parsippany Council was “arbitrary and capricious” in their refusal to grant a zoning change to benefit the developer. Parsippany is theoretically pursuing open space funding to purchase the parcel.