

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2012

Present: Bill Albergo, Jackie Bay, Margaret Gossett, Kizar Sheikh, John Horan, Todd Terhune, Marnie Vyff and Dan Happer.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the January 4, 2012 were approved. Dan remarked that he was unable to open December's minutes on either site (Borough/MLenvironmental.org); Jackie said she would correct the situation.

Membership: Dan Happer will act as the Council Liaison this year. Allison Rankin will be officially appointed as an Alternate member at the next Borough Council meeting, February 13th.

Committee & Commission Liasion Reports

Woodlands: The Committee is working with the High School to plant 250 native trees from the NJ Tree Foundation in the woodlands this spring. The EC will try to get an article put together highlighting this work for the new website. The County is trying to trap beavers in the Tourne but efforts may not be successful given the lack of ice. Current threats to the woodlands are Asian Longhorn Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer's (brought in by firewood). Rutgers pH candidate has been surveying trails in Northern NJ and Eastern NY to identify top invasive plants. They identified Japanese Barberry, Japanese Siltgrass, Multiflora Rose, Garlic Mustard and Winged Euonymous, many of which exist in town. Invasives can become a problem because they can change the pH of the soil and choke out native plants. To learn more go to www.nynjtc.org/invasives.

Shade Tree: The Community Forestry Plan was approved by NJDEP. This plan is submitted every five years. Plans are underway for the Arbor Day celebration.

Go Native Project: The Garden Club's "Go Native" program continues. The club hopes to continue education of residents regarding the benefits of native plants through their programming.

EC Projects:

Well Head Protection Ordinance: John has prepared half of a draft ordinance . He spoke to Borough Attorney, Mr. Murphy, and there don't appear to be any issues. This ordinance represents best practices as defined by NJDEP and is very similar to those enacted in neighboring towns. The Commission had a lengthy discussion and agreed that it will be very important to go before the Council with a well-thought out rationale supporting why this new ordinance is needed. We agreed to compile: 1) Researched POV about why well head protection ordinances are important (check with ANJEC + web research + Margaret's water presentation); 2.) Status of the wells in town (which are permitted + current buffers); 3) List of

towns in New Jersey with similar ordinances; and 4) Thorough understanding of the implications of enacting an ordinance as it relates to buffers and future development.

Khizar will write the summary about why ordinances are important, John will provide a list of towns and one of the two can hopefully contact Borough Hall and determine the status of the current wells.

Solid Waste Committee: Committee will have their first meeting soon. Evidently there is now more than one vendor willing to do back door pick up.

Sustainable New Jersey Certification: Jackie reported that we have heard back from Sustainable Jersey and had to submit some additional information in order to achieve the desired points behind the following action items:

- ④ Anti-Idling: Needed to upload correct map with sign locations evident and a write up from the Police in terms of how they enforce the policy and their observations.
- ④ Solar Panels: To back up educational outreach, supplemented screen kiosk shots with actual photos of the kiosks in Wildwood and MLHS. Noticed that the Wildwood screen is not operational and I emailed the vendor.
- ④ Green Team: SJ asked for a resolution outlining the members and responsibilities of the Green Team. We never set up our team this way (it was a sub-committee of the EC) so I found two sets of minutes from May and June 2009 which detailed this relationship.
- ④ ERI: The link to the ERI as found on the new website was not operational so I fixed it.
- ④ Recycling depot: We needed to prove that the depot is still operational so we uploaded the December 2011 flyer that was mailed to all residents.
- ④ Water Conservation Ordinance: The requirements are stricter than alternate day watering and we will not be able to go for these points.

Hopefully, Sustainable Jersey will accept this additions and we will be awarded Bronze certification and a total of 195 points any day.

MLenvironmental.org: On January 31, Jackie unveiled the new website, MLenvironmental.org, to the MLHS Science faculty and the Shade Tree and Lakes Commissions. We talked about the features currently on the site and the vision to make it a Borough-wide resource for all the environmental groups. STC and Lakes appeared interested in joining the site and Woodlands will apparently stay on the Borough site. The EC would solicit feature articles and keep the Events section up to date on the home page, but each individual group would be responsible for updating their home pages and individual sections.

Doug McWilliams was present representing the Borough. The group talked about the fact that the Borough site needs to be updated and that the EC forming it's own site that links to the Borough's is not seen as a problem.

We talked about the need for wordpress training, ideally with a student volunteer. I will follow up with F. Sanchez and C. Pinto and have found some online video resources. The next step is to follow back up with STC and Lakes and bring them into the training.

News:

The Cove Project takes the ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award: Bill reported that the Cove Restoration Committee was highlighted as one of 3 Award Winners in the ANJEC Report , Winter 2012. Margaret Gossett and Joan Greentree presented the Centennial Cove Restoration Legacy Project at the 2011 Environmental Congress.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 7 at 7:30pm at Borough Hall.