

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2012

Present: B. Albergo, J. Bay, M. Gossett, D. Happer, T. Terhune, A. Rankin, M. Vyff and K. Sheikh

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Committee & Commission Liaison Reports

Lakes Report: Allison reported that FEMA funds are to be used to potentially clean debris out of the canal. She followed up with Allied Biological regarding the NJ Discharge permit and discovered that it is a state requirement because we use herbicides in water bodies that link to other watersheds. The Borough is still waiting for permit approval from the DEP.

Woodlands Report: Margaret reported that she assisted in the building of a deer enclosure on Woodland behind the tennis courts. The MLHS is planting trees and comparing their success rates to those planted on school grounds. DPW will fence the structure once stake work is finished.

Shade Tree Report: Marnie reported that the annual Arbor Day celebration at Wildwood School will be 4/27 and will be celebrated with the Junior Nature Club. Stump removal is being pursued on a case by case basis.

Municipal Solid Waste Committee: Bill reported that the group visited Re-Community Recycling – a single-stream recycling center in Mine Hill and was extremely impressed with the speed and efficiency at which recyclables can be processed. Paper and plastic can be co-mingled and plastic #1, #2, #4, #5 and #7 are accepted. Borough recyclables are sometimes handled at this facility pending Roselli's truck distribution situation. Current thinking: single-stream can work to lower both our garbage output and tonnage rate; back door pick up should be maintained to keep the Borough cleaner, and green bags should be retained as well, potentially in a smaller 13 gallon size to eliminate double bagging. The Committee is targeting a June 30 RFP date for a November decision.

EC Projects:

Well Head Protection Ordinance: Tom and Todd visited the wells on the Rockaway Country Club grounds and determined that there was no suspicious "shed" in the vicinity. Both wells were in an isolated position and appeared to be well kempt. Photos are available. Given that Mtn Lakes has water lines that cross the golf course, it is not certain if development could ever be undertaken on this site. Dan visited the same well with Borough Council and reported that one of the wells needs to be re-done in order to put in a submersible pump. In terms of moving forward, it was agreed that Khizar and John would take the lead on addressing Councilman Happer's questions at the next meeting, May 2 and that we would target a information session with the Council in June. The "outline" was determined to be: Margaret: where our water comes from; Todd: contaminated sites and their proximity to the wells; Khizar: how wells could be impacted by existing contamination and John: liability risk of future development.

Sustainable New Jersey: Marnie will prepare flyers announcing our accomplishment for distribution at the upcoming Empty Bowls event. Jackie needs to update the website and prepare a press release.

MLenvironmental.org: Jackie reported that the Planning board had, in the past, had some concerns about the ease of use of the MCPRIMA maps. Next steps are to follow up with the Board, via EC liaison John, to determine if maps can and will be used in their current state. If not, we will investigate using a consultant to create a limited number of physical maps similar to what other EC's have in their

Environmental Resource Inventories. Jackie also to make best attempts to convert Flora and Fauna visuals to higher-quality images. Allison suggested that we give members of the Community a place to dialogue about environmental issues on our website. We are supposed to have an operational email but it appears to be stuck in the works at the High School; Jackie to follow up again.

New Business:

MLHS Empty Bowls: Marnie, Allison and Jackie to lead a booth and “Trash” game at the upcoming Empty Bowls as a means of furthering education in town and to interest potential new members.

Clean Up Day: The Council has suggested that the EC lead a Borough-wide clean up day. Margaret reported that there is a good deal of garbage in the wetlands and that we would need to be prepared with waders and grabbers. No decision was made.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30pm Borough Hall.