

Mountain Lakes Green Team

Meeting 3/3/2015

Present: Marnie Vyff - Chair, Paul Odenwelder, Mimi Kaplan, Mark Prusina, Janet Horst

Our standing:

SJ has the replacement plaque and is sending it to Marnie.

Actions & Projects:

Green a Green Fair: Now named “Mountain Lakes Eco Weekend” is April 24th to 26th. The DPW hold their large waste disposal. The paper shredding event and blood drive raise money for the volunteer Mountain Lakes Fire Department and the Boonton Kiwanis Ambulance Squad. Last year the Borough Council started a park and neighborhood cleanup for sports teams, clubs and town organizations, and this year the Environmental Commission is running it. The Shade Tree Commission also holds their Arbor Day celebration that Friday which will kick off Eco Weekend.

The Police will not participate with the drug drop off but the Green Team should tell residents where they can drop prescriptions. Other possible organizations that may be involved are Garden Club, the Scouts. The Girl Scouts may have a table selling cookies or help the Green Team. Marnie has checked with Mayor McWilliams, the Borough Manager, and Borough Clerk about publicizing all these events together under the name “Mountain Lakes Eco Weekend”. She will have Bill Albergo relay the idea to Council at the March 9th meeting. Marnie has designed an ad and will proceed with publicizing the weekend and all its activities.

Marnie met with the new Borough Manager, Bob Hoffman, and relayed his suggestions for Eco Weekend - A plastic bag drop off and vegetable oil drop off. Both ideas were received with excitement. Mimi and Paul will look into the bag drop off. Mark already collects veg oil at the HS and will look into where it goes, etc.

Janet will suggest to the Garden Club they work with the Shade Tree Commission on a Sandy replacement tree project sponsored by the NJ Shade Tree Federation. The Federation has an opportunity to get up to 2000 seedlings from them in April for free.

The \$2000 Sustainable Jersey grant for a Rain Barrel Workshop was applied for by Marnie. The winners are to be announced March 11th. She has put in the required Resolution for the next Borough Council Meeting, ML Living needs to have the ad for the April publication by March 8th, so we should find another source of funds in case the grant is not won. Mark will look into that. One possibility is selling the old street signs to residents on Eco Weekend. The Borough Council should be asked about this too. We will go ahead with the rainbarrel workshop. Marnie will look into other sources of barrels that may be less expensive.

Recycling: Mimi held a waste audit at Wildwood Elementary School in February. The students recycle 25% of what could be recycled. The principal, Mimi, and a few teachers have worked out a plan of action to teach the children and other teachers how

to recycle. They will hold another audit at the end of the term to continue to see the change in the amount the students recycle. Mimi will submit a written account.

Mark had a discussion with the waste haulers about their methods of recycling. Before further action is taken, they can try to correct their own errors.

Water: Water is of more importance in town lately. The Environmental Commission is focusing on it this year. The residents should be informed and offered ways to conserve. An article, published in the beginning of April, is an excellent primer for the rainbarrel workshop. Janet will write an article about water resources for the paper to begin getting the public informed. It should be published in Neighbor News at the beginning of April. Mark suggested it be a fact based article. Janet will interview him for it. It will discuss the Troy Brook aquifer, Mountain Lakes' method of retrieving water, and suggestions for conservation.

Other: Marnie will meet with Beth Azar this afternoon and set up an appointment to meet with Frank to discuss their projects.

Our next meeting is 4/7/15.

Respectfully submitted by Marnie Vyff.