

Norwood Environmental Commission

August 11, 2014

Minutes

8:22 pm Chair calls regular meeting to order

Christine waives the reading of the Open Public Meetings Law.

Roll call

Attending:

Christine Hageman, Chair (201)835-5687
Jean Hanley, Secretary
Jim Elling, Vice Chair
Barbara Vanderbeck, Treasurer
Paul Haberman

Not Present:

Paul Kozel
Laurie Hageman
Dave Elling, Hist. Pres. Comm. Liaison
Frank Marino, Council Liaison
David Yoskowitz, Planning Board Liaison

Consent Agenda:

March Minutes, May Minutes, July 14 Minutes (no meetings in April or June) – approved.

Correspondence: approved

Lorraine McMackin, Boro Administrator: Request for Input on **BC Farmland Preservation Plan**. There is a Public Hearing on Sept 9th on changes to the County Agricultural Plan and the Farmland Preservation Plan and Lorraine wanted to know if we would provide comments to the plan and they gave us a disc to review. A discussion ensues. Jim offers to review as well as Paul.

Emails: Yu Soo Lee, Allan Schrader, DPW Supt. re: Tree Removal – she provided her address and photos and most of it was cut down already. Allan was contacted and replied that he would go there when he returns from vacation about a replacement tree.

Sustainable Jersey invitation to the Mayor to come to Atlantic City with the Certification plaque for a photo at the annual Awards luncheon. They would like us to send 5 pictures (Rain Garden, Fleet Management System and the biodiesel System). Barbara will take pictures of the the fleet inventory and the biodiesel systems.

Announcements:

PB Meeting next meeting is on 8/21/14

ZBOA meeting next meeting on 9/4/14

BCUA HHW Collection - 9/6/14; 9am - 3pm, Campgaw Mountain Reservation, Mahwah

BCUA E-Waste, Tire, Paper Shredding Collection - 8/16/14; 9am-2pm, BCC, Paramus

Norwood DPW is still accepting E-waste near the pond despite the fire and lack of new structure.

Old Business:

PB Applications: n/a

ZB Applications: n/a – A discussion ensues about how much more vocal the residents are about the upcoming Railroad Ave property versus the D’Ercole farm property. A discussion ensues about the property that is next to D’Ercole and is now up for sale as well as the property across the street.

Fox Hill Woods – Christine met with Dan Kaufman (Neglia Engineering) in June and discussed the options available. DEP permit engineering proposal approved by Council, \$2600 for existing survey copies, wetland report and they will reflag part of the wetland and we have to do the overlay (Christine will hand draw the trail onto the big survey (not to scale) and we have to do the 200’ notification (2 private lots, rest municipal). Christine will notify the Council of the block and lots that are affected. A discussion ensues about what the problem actually was that held us up all this time (Neglia did not want

to sign off on someone else's design). We will split up the application: Eddie will sign off on the design, Neglia will sign off on the flagging and the wetland report and we will sign off on the overlay and reports. Neglia said that it could be done in a couple of weeks and she will touch base with them. Christine contacted Eddie Walsh this week to let him know the progress that has been made and he can schedule us for late fall if we have the permits by then, but that he cannot sign and seal his part of the application because he is not an engineer. We will mention that this is the same design that the DEP approved Eddie to build in Closter.

Bench needs installation on the hill but we need to schedule an invasives cleanup first – Christine and Laurie were at the hill recently and it is seriously overgrown now. Discussion ensues re: logistics, personnel and replacement plants and maintenance.

Finance Report – pending

Spring Cleanup status – Christine and Laurie did a clean-up, but it was not long enough, so we need to reschedule the 2nd half for another 2 hours – maybe we can do the Central Woods for the 2nd half – a discussion ensues about setting a date; possibly Saturday 9/13 from 9am to noon. A discussion ensues about the new Texas tick in the area with a yellow dot on its back that gives people a meat allergy. The vegetarian tick!

Sustainable Jersey - Fleet Inventory update accepted, but we have to submit fleet management data in November; grant expenditures – we need to spend the money, about \$1500, before the end of the year. We can buy light bulbs, Walter wants to expand the community garden and needs a food pantry and a better water supply hook up (the borough pays for the monthly water bill, but they need a new water hook up at the new area that will cost money), but he has not given us a dollar amount – a good expansion area might be a lot on South Street on the back entrance to the Catholic school. A discussion ensues about location and Walter's concerns about manpower. Christine can tell him that we need to quantify the expenditures while we have the money, i.e. before end of year. We need to set a Green Team meeting sometime in September, tentatively for the same day as the Earth Fair meeting.

Smoke-Free Parks – They did not talk about it at Council Work Session Wednesday. They are probably going to talk about it when everyone gets back from vacation. Frank thinks that it is going to be passed with no problems, (few objections). GASP (Global Advisors on Smoke Free Policy) is the organization that wants us to write a letter of support. The Council has not asked us for our input, although Frank brought it up mentioning that it was just going to probably pass, since it is likely going state wide soon anyway. A discussion ensues about if we should be the group that supports this issue or would the Board of Health be a better fit. A discussion ensues about how GASP spoke more of clean air and litter issues rather than health concerns. The sample letter that they want us to sign is read by Christine. A discussion ensues about how far this could go in personal freedom and how enforcement is an issue. A vote is taken for the motion on the table on whether or not we want to provide some sort of written guideline to the Council for their Wednesday meeting in support of the 100% ban on smoking in parks. A discussion ensues about the term parkland and how that might be defined. We decide instead to speak with the sub-committee, Frank?, about our concerns of the definition of parkland or to Andrew Fede, who could tweak the definition of parkland so that everyone is happy and to send our thoughts to Board of Health. The Meadowlands Conservation Trust supports the 100% smoke free initiative. GASP is using Sustainable Jersey points to encourage local EC's to support getting the ordinance on the books for 10 points and if you act now you also get these free no smoking signs to put up in your local parks.

Norwood Day - Sept 20, 2014 from 2 to 6pm – 2 tables and a tent – Paul may only be able to be there briefly.

New Business:

PB Applications – n/a

ZB Applications – n/a

Health Fair - Sept. 27-10 am to 1 pm - Community Center – we are invited to be at the fair to give stuff out (maybe we could give away radon kits, water testing kits and soil testing kits). Anti-idling is another topic concerning health. A discussion ensues.

Farmland Preservation Plan - Sept. 9 Public Hearing Comments/Input in the County Hearing – You have to opt in to be designated as farmland preservation plan. It cannot be forced on you.

Open Discussion: none

Next Meeting – September 8, 2014

Motion to adjourn the meeting is unanimous

Meeting Adjourned: 10:07PM

APPROVED

Chair

Secretary