

Norwood Environmental Commission
December 8, 2014
Minutes

8:14 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
David Yoskowitz, Planning Board Liaison
Frank Marino, Council Liaison

Consent Agenda:

October 27, 2014 Minutes – tabled.

Correspondence: approved

Christine has 2 copies of the Open Space is a Good Investment ANJEC resource paper. She will leave one with Lorraine. Choose Open Space over converting to ratables. A discussion ensues about COAH and affordable housing.

Sustainable Jersey webinars are available. Luncheon: Ceremony for bronze certification award.

The Borough has a new CFO named Judy Curran.

Announcements:

PB Meeting - Reorganization, Probably 3rd Thursday in January 2015

ZBOA meeting - Reorganization, Possibly January 8, 2015

Old Business:

PB Applications: n/a

ZB Applications: – Railroad Ave Multifamily Use and Bulk Variances - comments submitted; however application has been withdrawn.

Fox Hill Woods – Permit package in finalization; bench needs installation; schedule invasives cleanup. A discussion ensues about how meadows are rare and so are the birds that frequent that habitat. A discussion ensues about that project.

Finance Report/Rain Garden Expenditures – received updated account info from new CFO. We have to pay for the Rain Garden signs yet and are waiting for estimates to come, but we may submit 2013 Sustainable Jersey grant report with a ballpark estimate without receipts, because they do not require receipts. We also will need around \$100 for replacement plants and mulch. A discussion ensues about the sign guys in the area.

Sustainable Jersey - Fleet management data submitted thanks to Christine and Barbara. A discussion ensues about the Smoke Free Park ordinance passing and how we will get 10 points for it.

New Business:

PB Applications – Nov Meeting: Minor Subdivision Application – Ascolese - 392 High St - No Comment, except Christine requested the preservation of the remaining large trees.

ZB Applications – none - No Meeting in December - new variance application may be heard in January, but the meeting date may be changed

2015 Calendar and Budget Approval – Borough Calendar – keep everything the same, but to change the Earth Fair to being in Old Tappan this year and on the 25th not the 26th. Also, to put a link to our Facebook page, since the Borough website is out of date right now. We will get the shredder on a separate date from the Earth Fair. We have left over money (\$900) in our budget that will hopefully go towards the rain garden sign, the replacement plants and mulch. We also have money in our small grants fund (\$1800) that we can use towards the sign. If we get the KDF estimate we can appropriate the funds in the next couple of weeks. The latest \$300 has not come in yet (cleanup money), so Christine is following up. A discussion ensues about how long the accounts stay open before they re-appropriate. The energy account (Community Partners Fund – now defunct) is empty now, we bought light bulbs. Our meeting calendar is discussed.

Commission Appointments/Reappointments - Elling appointments expire. Dave is not interested in being reappointed. Jim will be reappointed. A discussion ensues about who wants to be on the Green Team officially (Barbara, Christine & David). Paul mentions that his friend, who recently joined the Cub Scout leader group, Steve Ladew, is interested in joining the Commission. Paul will talk with him more about it. Christine offers that he can also be an alternate if he wants to start slow.

2015 Earth Fair Update - need to transfer balance to Old Tappan (\$3000) for the rotating Earth Fair funds. A discussion ensues about the climbing wall. A discussion ensues about not having the towns sponsor the fair (we think they should). A discussion ensues about using canoes in the river, but would need the home owner's permission (we don't think this will happen). A discussion ensues about what towns have been participating so far this year. Next Earth fair meeting is Dec 18th at 7:30 at OT Borough Hall. A discussion ensues about how Christine has talked to some of the music people and they are interested and have put it on their calendar. She has also contacted the music teacher at the school. Jean will go to a campus life committee meeting and talk with administration about LDEO's participation this year. Paul will contact his uncle Stan who is environmentalist in Rockland NY and was interested last year, but had short notice.

Open Discussion:

Jim thinks we could set up a camera in the woods to see who is putting the oil there.

Jim wants to get a new GPS for his work in the woods, but Christine will lend him the EC GPS for now. A discussion ensues about the capabilities of our GPS.

Paul is starting a new job, with a NJ presence. He is hoping they will want to sponsor the Earth Fair. They are in White Plains, and deal with hydro-fracking and many other environmental issues.

Next Meeting – January 2015 Reorganization, Tentatively 1/12/15 at 8 pm
Motion to adjourn the meeting is unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:26PM

APPROVED

Chair

Secretary