

Norwood Environmental Commission

July 14, 2014

Minutes

8:09 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

Frank Marino, Council Liaison

Barbara Vanderbeck, Treasurer

Paul Haberman

Laurie Hageman

Not Present:

Paul Kozel

Jim Elling, Vice Chair

Dave Elling, Hist. Pres. Comm. Liaison

Consent Agenda:

March Minutes, May Minutes- tabled (no meetings in April or June)

Correspondence:

Next Earth Fair Meeting – is scheduled for tomorrow at Stone Point Park in Old Tappan. It may rain though, so we are waiting to hear if it will be rescheduled. A discussion ensues about where the Park is and how it floods when it is raining hard.

Jean asks about the email from Yu Soo Lee; Allan Schrader, DPW Supt. re: Tree Ordinance. It is regarding a resident's sick tree and procedure for removal. A discussion ensues about the situation and our Ordinance. Paul H. is going to read up on the different tree ordinances.

Christine just emailed Walter Ortiz asking if he needs anything or has any questions or concerns. MEVO is willing to help build a new Community Garden for us.

Announcements:

PB Meeting next meeting is on 7/21/14

ZBOA meeting next meeting on 8/7/14 is cancelled

BCUA HHW Collection- July 19, 2014; 9am-3pm, BCUA, Moonachie

Concert in the Park Series - Begins June 18-7-9pm – Soul Finger Live - Rock and Roll

Old Business:

PB Applications: n/a

ZB Applications: n/a

Fox Hill Woods – Christine met with Neglia's engineer, Dan Kaufman, last month to discuss the DEP application. We wanted them to take the wetlands plans, which they prepared during the Meadowlands Conservation Trust survey, and overlay the trail work on top of it and then sign the engineering certification portion of the application. He explained that their big concern was liability for the boardwalk/bridge design. Dan said they would sign, but they would have to redo the wetlands survey and they would have to do the bridge and boardwalk designs. Christine proposed that they just give us their already completed signed/sealed plans then and we will take care of the rest. We shall see if they accept.

Finance Report - pending

Spring Cleanup status - A discussion ensues about the 1st half, which was just Christine and Laurie, they said things didn't look so bad in the woods on the east side of McClellan St (they took pictures and counted

everything); need to reschedule 2nd half – maybe we can do the Central Woods for the 2nd half – date to be determined (within the next 2 weeks)

Sustainable Jersey - Fleet Inventory update accepted, but we have to submit fleet management data in November, because we had a problem (machine malfunction) which since has been repaired, and Sustainable Jersey would like to see the data and the new system working properly. We also may have the points to add for Smoke Free parks. Barbara will look into the points available for that action. We should be good until 2016. A discussion ensues about getting silver and what it would take to get there.

New Business:

PB Applications – they appointed a liaison to the Environmental Commission, David Yoskowitz, who will begin attending EC meetings in fall as a voting member; D’Ercole Farm Subdivision - 20 single family homes with 2 cul-de-sacs. A discussion ensues - comments submitted were about planting native street trees on the easements. We also suggested that if they removed 2 houses (one from the end of each cul-de-sac) then they could reconfigure to solve some of the frontage and rear yard setback issues - application approved with some minor reconfiguration, but with 20 homes.

ZB Applications – Verizon Wireless/Colonial Inn – no comment – approved – A discussion ensues about the application. Verizon to put a couple of small Verizon small spot cell towers for regional coverage or boost signals; 20 Demarest St deck addition variance - comments submitted; application approved

Smoke-Free Parks – Most likely it will be passed on Wednesday when they vote on it at the public meeting. A discussion ensues. There is a boiler plate ordinance from the state, but Frank referred to the Tenafly and Closter ordinances and took the best of them to create one for Norwood. There is still some discussion on if the wooded open space areas in town will also be smoke-free. A discussion ensues about having smoking sections. A discussion ensues about enforcement issues and how the major aim is to stop kids from smoking. The Police will be reasonable in terms of enforcement. A discussion ensues about the basketball courts in Norwood and the cigarette butt litter. Now the town is looking to see if we have an ordinance in town that closes the parks and when do the parks open (Park Hours). The sign that we put up at Fox Hill trail entrance says something like sunrise to sunset or dawn to dusk.

Norwood Day - Sept 20 from 2 to 6pm. We got the letter from Lorraine. They want to know the number of tables we are going to have (we have to bring our own, because of fire loss) and are we using a tent, size? A discussion ensues and Jean offers an aluminum table, Frank suggests asking the fire dept. about borrowing tables.

Open Discussion:

Frank is also going to bring up televising the Council Meetings at the Wednesday meeting, since attendance has been so low lately.

Barbara brings up banning Fracking. Towns could all do ordinances against fracking. Frank thinks that there is not much ability to frack in our area because we do not have the right rock type.

A discussion ensues about CSX and the movement of crude oil through our towns.

A discussion ensues about the Railroad Ave condo proposal. The property is sold and condos will be built that blend in and stop the sprawl of downtown Norwood.

Paul mentions that he has a good announcement; He got named to the Super Lawyers NY 2014 rising Stars List, which will be published in September or October. Everyone congratulates Paul!

Next Meeting – August 11, 2014

Motion to adjourn the meeting is unanimous

Meeting Adjourned: 9:29PM

APPROVED

Chair

Secretary