

Norwood Environmental Commission

May 27, 2014

Minutes

7:44 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

Jim Elling, Vice Chair

Paul Haberman

Laurie Hageman

Not Present:

Paul Kozel

Barbara Vanderbeck, Treasurer

Dave Elling, Hist. Pres. Comm. Liaison

Consent Agenda:

Laurie is sworn in.

Minutes of January 13, 2013 are approved. Minutes of February 10, 2014 are approved.

Correspondence:

ANJEC meeting regarding NJ DEP recreational trail grants, comments and concerns that they hadn't distributed the 2013 grant awards and that they were not going to continue the program in 2014, but it turns out that it was a delay caused by Hurricane Sandy. We do not know if it is suspended in 2014 or not. A discussion ensues about the devastation from Hurricane Sandy. A discussion ensues about the other ANJEC events going on in the near future and the webinars that are available. A discussion ensues about how ANJEC really wants to get schools involved in Sustainable Jersey and how it is a tough road.

Announcements:

PB Meeting next meeting is on 6/19/14 (there is no May meeting)

ZBOA meeting next meeting is on 6/5/14

BCUA E-Waste, Tire & Shredding Collection – 6/7/14; 9am-2pm, Campgaw Mountain Reservation, Mahwah; **HHW Collection**- June 22, 2014; 9am-3pm, BCC, Paramus

Concert in the Park Series - Begins June 8-7-9pm

Benefit Concert at Cho Dae - South Korean musicians are coming to the United Nations for a concert – They are also doing a Benefit Concert at Cho Dae June 14, 2014. The Northern Valley Coalition (opposed to random drug testing) is the beneficiary of the concert. A discussion ensues about drug testing.

Old Business:

PB Applications: n/a - master plan is being updated

ZB Applications: Stonebridge Manor (D'Ercole Farms) - townhouse proposal – application was denied – it was a split vote and they needed a minimum of 5 votes because it was a use variance and a super majority is required. A discussion ensues about the application. Now there is some discussion of the property being bought by another developer and single homes being built. A discussion ensues.

Fox Hill Woods – We have some grant money now, which is a good thing. Application submittal pending engineer receipt of EC information, which he has most of now (there are only a few pieces left to get to him) Then we have to get the package to the DEP as soon as possible (by the end of June because there is a 90 day turn around at the DEP). A discussion ensues about the situation

Spring Cleanup status - need to reschedule – part of the requirement with the ANJEC \$1500 grant money is public outreach activities that promote the role of the EC in the community, so we should use Fox Hill woods for the cleanup instead of Central Woods. A discussion ensues about setting a date for the clean-up –

Saturday June 14 from 10-12 & Sunday June 15 from 12-2. Christine will advertise online. We can purchase our own supplies and give back the Clean Communities clean up equipment, if we are going to take much longer to have our clean-up. A discussion also ensues regarding encroachment onto a gore property bordering the Meadowlands Conservation Trust Fox Hill Woods Conservation Easement by an Old Tappan resident who has also encroached into the easement. There has been inter police force discussion on removal and restoration but we don't think that it has gone anywhere.

Sustainable Jersey – Christine working on Fleet Inventory updates; less than 1 week until June 1 deadline. Christine spoke with Alan and the new fleet management system is up and running now. We also have new trucks (because of the fire) so it is a fresh start and next year should be much easier. Alan told Christine that he can produce the results for this past month, the month of data that we have, he can also give Christine the purchase orders for the system, (proof of having and installing the system). The biofuel innovative points expire. We would need to come up with a new innovation by June 8th to get the points in that category. We will not make that, but the fleet inventory will cover our points and then we will be good until 2016.

New Business:

PB Applications – none - they need to appoint a liaison to the Environmental Commission

ZB Applications – Garage Variance Application – 330 Livingston St (Williams) – no comment – a discussion ensues about the application. It was to take down an existing garage and put in a modern garage and they just needed a variance for being too close to the property line, but it is a continuance of an existing non-conforming issue.

BCEC Meeting Questionnaire – Christine, Jim & Barbara went to the Bergen County EC meeting on 3/31/14 in Hackensack on Stormwater management. They sent us a thank you letter for attending and a questionnaire asking us what we thought of the meeting: Talk local, instead of a webinar from across the country, have a round table discussion, where the Commissioners can talk with each other and discuss relevant issues that we are facing. Discuss Riparian Buffers at one of the meetings. We enjoyed the Rain Garden talks, as well as the Rutgers talks (parking lot edges).

ANJEC Open Space Grant – We got the \$1500 (no match) grant that can be applied to the trail work. We have received a check for \$1000 and will receive a check for the remaining \$500 when we have fulfilled all of our requirements for the grant (get the project done in one year, send updates, put in 80 volunteer hours & submit our report) The volunteer work will include; building the trails, anything we do with getting the permits, hosting community meetings to let Norwood know what's happening with the project. All the work needs to be logged and tracked.

Open Discussion:

CSX: A discussion ensues about how much oil is being transported on the tracks going through the local towns. A discussion ensues about solar panel use as well as wind mill power. A discussion ensues about how Earth Friendly's new building is very green (platinum Leeds certified) with a zero carbon footprint.

Community Garden Expansion – Frank asks about the status and Christine replies that Walter said that he had a lot of people signed up for the Library lots, but wanted to see if they really do use the plots. MEVO will help if we need their assistance. Jim mentions that 3 large old Walnut trees were taken down on the property behind the Presbyterian Church. A discussion ensues about doing a tree inventory (there are grants available for that) and a Shade Tree Ordinance.

Next Meeting – June 9, 2014

Motion to adjourn the meeting is unanimous

Meeting Adjourned: 9:24PM

APPROVED

Chair

Secretary