

Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Minutes – 4/18/2016

Members in attendance: Ed Alter, Meredith Kates, Teresa Pendergast, Sachiko Goodyear, Elizabeth Snieckus

Members absent: Ken Barber, Grace Biener, Scott Raymond, Jack Stubbs, Tom Wiseman

Guests: No Guests

Meeting open: 7:00 pm

I. General Business:

- a. **Adopted minutes from 3/21/2016 meeting** - No further action required.
- b. **Membership** – Member Ken Barber’s request to resign as a full Member and become an Advisory Member of the EC, has been forwarded to Mayor Doug Frank and Liaison Pizzella. Resident Bob Cinek, interested in joining the Environmental Commission, will be recommended to the Borough Council for upcoming appointment.
- c. **Budget** – 2016 Budget has been approved as unchanged from 2015, no further action required.
- d. **Training** - No action.

II. Correspondence:

- a. **New Correspondence** – We have received enthusiastic RSVP for the Town Clean Up, and expect a good turnout for the event.
- b. **EC Email inbox** – No new Plans.

III. Tree Maintenance Meeting: Ken Barber, John DeJoseph, Dan O’Rourke, Scott Raymond & Elizabeth Snieckus met 4-11-16, to discuss ongoing Tree Maintenance issues.

- a. **Tree City USA Application**—Ken Barber & Scott Raymond will continue to work on Tree City USA Application.
- b. **R.O.W. Street Tree Removal Policy** - John DeJoseph confirmed that the current Borough policy to carry out tree removals within the street easement, will continue as is. Residents will request DPW tree pruning &/or removal through the “Report a Problem” format on the Town’s Website. The DPW will do a quick evaluation and request a referral from Tree Expert Ken Barber, if warranted. An outside contractor will continue to provide tree removal services via contract with the Borough. DeJoseph recommended that the DPW reserve \$5,000 of the tree removal budget for emergency storm events.

EC Meeting Minutes - 4/18/2016, continued (page 2 of 3)

- c. **Tree Bank** – DeJoseph informed the group that the current Tree Bank balance, from Developer's Zoning approval obligation is \$23,000, and is for tree planting and tree replacement ONLY. The current contribution amount of \$275 per 2-2.5" caliper tree, as designated by the Borough Tree Ordinance, for replacement of removed trees, is several years old and should be updated to reflect the rate of inflation for current pricing. DeJoseph will look into revising the Municipal Fees within the Town Ordinance.
- d. **Street Tree Planting Policy** - EC Advisor, Ken Barber, &/or EC members will recommend tree planting species and location, if requested by a resident. Fall Planting season was recommended to be designated as September through October. DeJoseph recommends keeping tree budget under \$17,000, and holding \$5,000 in reserve for emergencies.
- e. **Tree Ordinance** – DeJoseph asked that the EC review the current Tree Ordinance for Land Development, and offer suggestions for changes in language and content. Suggested that we amend current Hillsdale Ordinance to define "Tree Maintenance" as "generally to include but not be limited to pruning, feeding, cable support, pesticide application, but EXCLUDING tree removal". He and Dan O'Rourke will work on the tree R.O.W. policy, and submit suggested changes to legal team for review.

IV. **SUEZ-United Water Reservoir, Planting & Walkway:** Ed Alter attended SUEZ meeting with officials from Woodcliff Lake, Park Ridge and Hillsdale to discuss nature trail plans.

- a. New path will be for walking and fishing only. No pets or bicycles will be permitted.
- b. SUEZ will be pursuing DEP permits and watershed grants for the project.
- c. Hillsdale's Church Road plantings were recommended by Lori Sharkey of Bergen SWAN.
- d. The new Reservoir concrete spillway has an unanticipated consequence of significant sound reflection and amplification of vehicles passing over the reservoir road. Adjacent residents are severely affected and a remedy must be sought. Borough Engineer Chris Statile is to address the issue.
- e. Concrete was to be painted green to minimize visual impact, and has not yet been done.

V. **Website:**

- a. Website maintenance will be taken over by Bob Cinek.

VI. **Planning and Zoning:**

- a. **Plan Review Referral Form** – Reformatting of Borough Referral Form will be discussed at May EC meeting.
- b. **Sustainability for Schools** – No new business.

EC Meeting Minutes - 3/21/2016, continued (page 3 of 3)

VII. Outreach Events:

- a. Bi-State Clean UP Day** – Saturday April 23, from 10am-1pm. From 1pm-1:30pm, pizza & water will be available to volunteers. In case of rain, event is to be cancelled. Tom Wiseman will pick up supplies from County.
- b. Eco Fair Day** – Sunday April 24th, 10am-4pm. Ceil Power will kick off its Energy Audit program with a sign-up table at the event. The EC can set up/collect donations for the EC, to fund activities within the Borough. A sign-up for residents to be on the EC mailing list will be provided.
- c. Arbor Day** – Friday April 22^h. Trees to be planted are to be picked up Thursday, April 21st, DPW will be planting the trees at Smith School and Meadowbrook School, and St; John's Academy. A representative from the Borough should be on hand to speak at each school event.
- d. Hillsdale Town Day** – June 11, 2016, at Stonybrook Swim Club. Sachiko Goodyear and EC Members will attend, and provide some resident interactive program to generate funds for the EC.
- e. Church Group Volunteers** – EC representative will inquire as to Pascack Bible Church's interest in spreading woodchip mulch at Beechwood Park.

VIII. Hillsdale Schools Green Fairs:

- a. Smith School** – Friday afternoon, May 13, 2016, with events to include recycling relay game, beekeeper, native plants talks and Green Team Presentation on the 4th Grade Garden.
- b. Meadowbrook Green Fair** – (June date pending)

IX. Future Initiatives:

- a. Bee Hives** – EC to make recommendations for bee hive locations within the Borough, and to provide educational programs for interested residents.
- b. SUEZ Walking Path** – EC to make native plant recommendations to incorporate into design development.
- c. Electric Car Charging Stations** – Future discussion of possible locations on commercial or Borough property, to install electric car charging stations in town.

Meeting adjourned: 8:20 pm

Next Meeting: May 16, 7:00pm