

Hillsdale Environmental Commission Minutes – 10/9/2014

Attendees: Raymond, Biener, Snieckus, Stubbs, Kates, Breuer
Members absent: Calabria, Pendergast, Barber, Council Liaison Pizzella

Call to order: 7:10pm

Business update

Approval of minutes from Sept. 4.

Budget discussion:

Balance of Beechwood repair costs were taken by borough out EC budget this month, while EC/borough awaits last grant payment from ANJEC (all follow up paperwork was submitted to ANJEC first week of Sept). Consequently, EC is currently deficient in funds required to renew ANJEC membership in Jan. Other priority needs include outreach materials (banner, brochures) as we are using outdated Green Team sources. Members will determine costs associated with essential subcommittee operations, and forward to Elizabeth, who will prepare commission yearly budget requirement sheet. We will follow up with liaison regarding increasing our funding to an amount consistent with our needs and efforts. In past years, EC budget has been cut from thousands to the current total of \$350.

Correspondence:

No new correspondence.

Question raised about procedures regarding certified mail sent to EC and received and signed by the borough. Scott Raymond will follow up with Borough Clerk/Administrator

Planning Update:

Caliber will be heard at Special Meetings on Nov. 13 and Dec. 11. Tide Dry Cleaners will be heard on Nov. 4. Comments being prepared by subcommittee. A review sheet was included with Tide plans that can be used as a standard form for planning application reviews. Meredith will forward a copy to Elizabeth, Scott and Jack. Last night (Oct. 8) Scott commented on behalf of the EC during the county presentation to Planning Board on Pascack Valley tennis court project already underway. EC would like to see additional trees planted as a buffer to Sapienza Gardens. EC will be included in all future walk throughs/correspondence regarding plantings moving forward. The county engineer will contact EC this week to plan site visit.

Other project updates:

Patterson Street Bridge Landscaping. Chris Statile to reach out to subcommittee with walk through date (after Oct. 15). It was agreed that planting sites (according to plan) should be staked prior to EC walk through for reference. Elizabeth prepared extensive written comments and visual mark ups in advance which were forwarded to Chris Statile (project engineer).

Beechwood Trails update:

Lead volunteers will be recognized by the council on Oct. 14. Members will reach out to notify honorees. Meredith reconnected with United Methodist Church and updated status of trust fund for Beechwood Park repairs. Donations can now be mailed or dropped off at town hall for future trail maintenance; checks should be made out to "Borough of Hillsdale-Beechwood Trails". Update on project work from Sept: productive trail repair work and removal of RR ties by EC and partners. Frank arranged for transfer of wood chips by DPW, but there was no advanced discussion or resources to distribute it that quickly on site. Due to immediate need, Scott Raymond and his workers stepped in to lay mulch on the back section of trail. We thank him for his efforts!

In our follow up with Beechwood Team (including DPW and Frank Pizzella) we continue to clarify that as specified in the grant, EC will organize clean ups (litter, minor brush work) while the DPW has committed to monthly walk through and branch/tree removal when necessary. Currently, there no "ownership" of mulching in future maintenance plan (and EC does not have resources/capacity for this job). Stefanie is electronically updating Jack's original trail map, and uploading to EC website. Discussion of possible work for spring: marking trees (maybe working with scouts) and last leg of trail repairs if funding is available).

Outreach update:

Grace/Stefanie/Meredith to work on new EC print materials updating original EC logo designed by Jack and commemorating 45 year anniversary of the Hillsdale EC.

Other business:

EC has been approached to serve in advisory role with other local commissions (Glen Rock, Park Ridge and Cresskill). Membership update: need for new member and upcoming appointments discussed. EC strong preference is to reappoint our current members, and will follow up with our liaison. Meeting schedule discussion- Meredith to follow up with clerk about facility availability.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 pm.

Next meeting: Nov. 13 at 6:30 pm.