

Hillsdale Environmental Commission

Minutes – 11/21/2013

Attendees: Grace Biener, Stephanie Beuer, Meredith Kates, Rob Holmes, Frank Pizzella, Scott Raymond, Elizabeth Snieckus, Jack Stubbs

Call to order: 7:35pm

1) Adopted minutes from 10-17-2013 meeting:

- no further action required.

2) Project Updates:

a. By-Laws:

Meredith updated team regarding subcommittee meeting: work ongoing, plan is to use Jersey City as a model and adapt to our specific needs, disseminate draft and request individual member's comments in the upcoming month, and prepare to vote on adoption at December meeting.

(Action: Rob to distribute first draft next week.)

b. Community Forestry Grant proposal:

- Team agreed to table further discussion and vote as to participation until such time as the Community Forestry Grant program representative can attend, in an attempt to resolve the liability question.

(Action: Scott and/or Frank to coordinate representative's attendance.)

3) Planning Board Updates:

General discussion: Meredith proposed creating a Development Application Review sub-committee with responsibility for primary review, EC presentations, position recommendations, and delegation as necessary. Proposal accepted, and members are Scott Raymond, Elizabeth Snieckus, and Jack Stubbs.

a. Caliper Builders/El Woods:

- Site Plan review to be heard by Planning Board 12/17/2013. We need to compare previously approved Site Plan (2007) to current plan, for EC concerns.

(Action: Meredith to secure previous plans, Scott to coordinate review.)

b. Harold Square:

- Planning Board review postponed until 2014 at developers request.

c. Inserra:

- General plan is for a single building with multi-storefronts to be constructed on west side of Broadway opposite existing Shoprite. Application to be heard in 2014. Team noted remaining open deficiencies from previous Shoprite commitments (tree plantings, grass strips, curb stops?) and seeks to redress concomitant with this application.

(Action: Meredith to research and determine status of previous commitments.)

Further discussion on desire to understand how other municipalities address green design (LEED certifications, etc.) through use of incentives and/or requirements.

(Action: Grace to contact Park Ridge and report back.)

4) New Business:

a. Community Forestry and Its Impact on You 11/2/2013:

Stephanie reported on the event at BCC featuring PSE&G, United Water, and Princeton Hydro. Topics included below ground issues – the “One Call” program for pre-dig guidance, and above ground issues – utility line impacts, pruning, planting limitations, among others.

b. ANJEC – Living with Trees – 12/5/2013:

Meredith advised the team regarding the upcoming event featuring Montclair’s tree protection ordinance, and Chatham’s post storm planting update.

c. Budget:

General discussion ensuing from possible admissions fee for the ANJEC event (what happens to unexpended budget, what are the budgeting and spend periods?)

(Action: Rob to contact Jon DeJoseph and report back.)

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15pm

Next Meeting: 12/19/2013, 7:30pm