

Hillsdale Environmental Commission Minutes- July 3, 2014

Members in attendance: Kates, Biener, Snieckus, Raymond, Stubbs, Breuer
(absent: Perrone, Barber, Calabria)

Also in attendance: Council Liaison Pizzella, Teresa Pendergast, Paul Giovanni (Eagle Scout) with parents Paul and Linda Giovanni

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. As there was no June meeting, Commission voted to approve the minutes from May 1, 2014.

Membership update: Teresa Pendergast is scheduled to be appointed by the Mayor to alternate position at the July 8 Municipal Council meeting, and current alternate member Laura Calabria will fill the member seat held by departing member Robert Holmes.

Guest presentation: Paul Giovanni, Hillsdale Eagle Scout would like to pursue installation of a rain garden at McSpirit Park this summer for his Project. Installation would be followed by an informational presentation for the community. Commission and Councilman Pizzella advised in response to Paul's/Boy Scout Council's inquiries about sources for native plants, possible project partners, addressing Hillsdale Council, and role of rain gardens.

Subcommittee Updates:

Meredith reported that Caliber builders will be heard at a Special Meeting on July 24, and at a regular meeting on Aug. 13. Walsky has been postponed from July 9 to Sept. 10.

Beechwood Trails Restoration Project: Scott and Jack spoke of great success of the June 21 and 28 workdays, and industrious partnership with MEVO, Gary Kuhl, John Steele, Ed Snieckus, and DPW. Community engagement has been raised, and feedback is very positive. Councilman Pizzella to set up a trust for community donations. He will also confirm with Borough attorney that EC can host a fundraising link on EC webpage. Additionally, Councilman Pizzella will be presenting an update with a slide show at the July 8 council meeting. Major partners will be invited and recognized at the Aug. 11 council meeting (awaiting confirmation).

Follow up tasks:

Meredith to connect with Kim Redmond (Community Life) and Scott with Pascack Press. Any articles/press releases should be forwarded to Stefanie.

Subcommittee group will meet in late July to discuss minor trail follow up work, regular future maintenance needs, and possible partnerships. Removal of old railroad ties is one of the current needs.

Meredith to acquire reimbursement from ANJEC funds held by borough clerk for supplies purchased.

Frank will follow up on Liz's suggestion to solidify DPW role in future regular maintenance of site. EC able to take on a supportive role.

Tree Plantings: Scott updated the Commission on the status of the borough tree replacements, which is now planned for the fall. Scott suggested borough attorney prepare a written document of agreement/work, and Councilman Pizzella will address and update the council.

Scott also raised the question of "ownership" of regular tree maintenance. Who is currently inspecting and addressing any needs? Scott noted as one example, that trees at Beechwood need support. There is a general concern that we may in a cycle of installing and then replacing dead trees; this would not be necessary if someone (DPW? outside professional?) was addressing issues regularly. Ken Barber has been involved in the past, but questions of whether job is suitable for a volunteer. Councilman Pizzella will pursue answers to these concerns, and will also follow up with Ken Barber.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. Next meeting scheduled for Aug. 7.