

**Borough of Park Ridge Green Team - Minutes for Meeting of December 22, 2011 @ Community Center, Commenced: 7:30 p.m., Adjourned: 9:30 p.m.**

**Attendance:** S. Hopper, J. McDermott, D. Cawood, B. Coleman, B. Thomason, V. Lemba, J. Roehmer, G. Bottinor, B. Bogart, B. Opelts, B Beattie

### Municipal Recycling Bins

1. James asked the GT to be able to work with other committees, the borough staff and the business community for a collaborative solution. Concerns about cost, look, ADA requirements and working towards a comprehensive solution to which all groups could contribute would be the best approach. This will not be decided until after the reorg early next year.

### Recycling Flyer

1. James shared a copy of the Flyer. The Flyer will be sent out in the borough newsletter, by an email blast and it will also be posted on the borough website.

### School Recycling Progress/School Programs Future

1. Vinnie mentioned that there were 11 bags of comingles in 2 weeks or (1) per day.
2. James discussed East Brooks PTO's commitment to the schools recycling program. The full amount of \$982.00 was approved unanimously by the PTO.
3. James discussed that he wants to meet with Vinny and Danielle to figure out additional bins and labels to be purchased with the PTO donation. Discussion about eliminating a scale but logging the recycled materials weekly for tracking the program. East Brooks PTO's donation of \$982.00 needs to be modified for what is needed. Danielle discussed that the WR PTO would vote on the matching donation in early January.
4. Danielle mentioned that she left two messages for Bob Wright this past month and was waiting for a callback. She spoke to Dr. Gamper and discussed some of the issues including picking up the comingled bags on a scheduled basis and asked about the status of the outside bins that the district committed to to obtaining to supplement the GT program. Dr. Gamper said that he was satisfied with the program since it is an improvement from last year and she would have to speak to Bob Wright about the bins.
5. Steve said he put a call into Bob Wright and Bob said that he did not get the outside Recycle Bins yet and that he would talk to Nick about buying them soon.
6. Group discussed calling and meeting with BOE in 2012. In addition to recycling, discuss other programs including Sustainable Jersey and the Solar Panel Project as education and submission.
7. Danielle discussed meeting with Mark Falcon and the Environmental Club. The group was interested in the Greenbean recycling machines but there wasn't any money in the budget for purchasing them.
8. James discussed an email update from Mark Falcon on the HS Recycling. Mark mentioned there was now separate green recycling containers in each classroom for co-mingles. The money was budgeted as part of the building and grounds budget last year and the custodians have been coming around daily to pick up the recycling from these containers. Also, the environmental club members continue to pick up paper recycling and leftover co-mingles on a weekly basis and the club membership is continuing to grow.
9. Vinny was going to talk to Mark to ask him about the progress at the HS also. He also said there have been some improvements in picking up recycling at WR and the co-mingles will need to be picked up 2 times per week to prevent any issues with odor or pests at the dumpsters.

### 2012

1. Continue 2011 Programs including Schools and Community Recycling, Sustainable Jersey initiatives and Green Fairs. Danielle was going to put together documentation from the School Green Fairs for Sustainable Jersey.
2. Group discussion on Communication, Outreach Focus, Training and Education Programs. James mentioned that training the students needs to be a focus. George said that it would help to bring the message home and the kids would educate their parents similar to education about smoke detectors.
3. Group agreed that 2012 regular meetings would be 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month. First meeting Tuesday Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at the community center.

4. 2011 Individual Awards will be given out early 2012.

5. Schedule for Events - Green Holidays and Local Events

- i. 4/22 Earth Day
- ii. 4/27 Arbor Day – Discussion about working with Shade Tree Committee. All agreed that a Tree Planting Program is needed. Discussion about cutting and replacing trees. Bob O. would discuss with Planning Board about a 2 for 1 solution and the trees could be planted in another location in the community. Barbara suggested each graduating class at the elementary schools could plant a tree at their respective schools and HS should be on board, as well. Barbara also asked if the Borough's tree farm at Electric Lake has been abandoned. Betsy discussed the loss of trees on Pascack Road and that any new trees should be large growth trees. Bill mentioned that Shade Tree Committee didn't have a budget for tree planting but replanting of trees is important. Group was going to research possible programs.
- iii. Bob O. offered a suggestion to have the Environmental Club in the Memorial Day Parade on a truck to make people aware of the GT and the Environmental Club. Bob offered to find a vehicle. This would need to be discussed with Mark Falcon and the EC to see if there is interest.
- iv. Barbara suggested teaming with Recreation to host an Historical Walk through town, as is done with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and would follow a similar route to Pascack Historical Museum, Pump House Museum, Wortendyke Barn, etc. Would promote mobility initiatives under SJ, foster appreciation for the history of Park Ridge and an opportunity for families to be active and learn together. Bill said he didn't feel it would be a problem to have the pump house manned and open to the public for one day during the year.
- v. Other Events to be discussed - Apr - Pascack Junior Women's cleanup day/Dare Shredding Fundraiser?, May – BCUA Environmental Grants, 5/9 Bike to School Day, June - Park Ridge Town Picnic, 6/21 Solar Day, 10/03 Walk to School Day, 11/15 America Recycles Day, Ragamuffin, Tree lighting, Homecoming.

### **2011 Accomplishments**

1. James discussed the list of 2011 accomplishments including, the School Recycling Grants and Program, Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certification, The Green Fair at the Town Picnic, The Elementary Schools Green Fairs, The Recycling Flyer and (3) Community Service Award Recipients on the committee. James was going to send an email with the list. It was a great year for the committee.

### **2012 Committee**

1. James discussed that he has had discussion with Mayor Elect Terry Maguire and that he would send recommendations to the Mayor for the 2012 Active Members and additional recommendations including Bob Bogert and Mark Falcon. He also asked Mayor Elect if additional council members could get involved with the committee and if there were any other community members who were interested in joining the committee.
2. Group discussion on the future of the committee. Steve mentioned that there has been recent discussion with the governing body about the mission of the Green Team. Steve suggested to M & C that a mission statement and by-laws similar to the recreation committee needs to be created for all committees. The GT discussed putting By-laws and a Charter together in early 2012 for discussion with M & C.
3. James discussed that he received a free training grant through the NJ USGBC for his company. He had a discussion recently with Lyn Beer that there is the same opportunity available for the Planning Board and other community members that may be interested for education on Sustainability and Green Buildings. He offered to meet with Planning Board next year if they were interested in learning about the GT and the grant opportunity.
4. January Meeting – Reorganization, Executive Leadership Voting, New members, 2012 Agenda.

Next GT Jan Mtg – TBD