

Borough of Park Ridge Green Team - Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Meeting commenced at 7:35p.m.

Attendance: James McDermott, Betsy Thomason, Steve Hopper, Vinnie Lemba, Jay Roehmer, Danielle Cawood, Barbara Coleman. Members of the general public were also present.

BCUA Composting Event

Angela Bonano-Lynch of the Bergen County Utility Authority gave an informative presentation on backyard composting, including do's and don'ts and a question and answer session. Bob Howell of PKRG-TV filmed the presentation, which will be aired on the Borough's cable stations. A link on the Boro's website to view the video online will also be made available.

Earth Machine composting bins were available for purchase by residents for \$55.00 and various handouts on recycling, composting, etc., as well as "green" produce bags, reusable shopping bags and flower seed stakes were provided to attendees.

1. 7:50 – 8:10 Sustainable New Jersey Progress Update

1. James reported on the 9 Items that were submitted for bronze level certification by Helene this past month. Still need either a Water Conservation Ordinance or a fleet inventory of municipal vehicles. Fleet Inventory will also give additional data for the Municipal Carbon Footprint Priority item for next level of certification.
2. Steve reported on his conversations with a member of Hillsdale's green team and steps they took to achieve certification – what worked, etc. Discussion about resources/effort that is needed to get completed.
3. Danielle found a collaboration website (SkyDrive) to track tasks of Green Team members, post minutes, etc. Danielle will work on setting up the website. James will send her the modified spreadsheet of points that are being discussed by the GT. We will try to show the website at our next meeting.
4. Steve to continue work on Water Conservation Ordinance and electronics recycling. Has identified a company to place a dumpster at the recycling center for recyclable electronics of PR residents, and will remove at a cost of \$150.00 per full bin. Concern was expressed by team members as to what the hauler does with the electronics. Need to confirm that they are recycled by end recipient. Steve will find out if same are recycled.
5. Betsy advises first step for SNJ Natural Resource Inventory portion needs to be the formation of an Environmental Commission to complete tasks required under this section. Need to request to Mayor & Council. If accepted this year, some items in the SNJ Natural Resource category can be started in early 2012.
6. Betsy introduced the Green Team to various programs of the Bergen S.W.A.N. Organization, of which she is a member.
7. Most of the information and/or documentation needed for our application submissions are in the hands of Helene or Kelly O'Donnell. Requests for such documentation from them should be funneled through James.

2. Keiko and Katherine Stearns advised by e-mail that the schools have no Earth Day projects scheduled. Discussion as to how to elicit participation from the schools with possibility of including programs of BCUA. Programs need to be approved by BOE – need a Board member on the team.
3. Roseanne working on webpage for Boro website for Green Team.
4. Barbara to check with Helene as to status of bid language and publication of same for Green Corners recycling bins.
5. Table for Green Team at the Easter Egg Hunt (Sat April 16th, Davies Field, 10:30)
 - a. The Roehmers have donated CFL bulbs for handout by Green Team members. Need to get stickers to put on each box with “Green Team” message.
 - b. Steve advised Water Department has declined to participate.
 - c. Steve will request funds for Green Team to purchase a banner for Green Team events. Danielle advises one can be obtained online from Vista Print for a nominal amount.
 - d. Who from the Green Team will be attending?
6. General discussion regarding the need for various ordinances to be passed by Mayor & Council to complete items needed for Sustainable Jersey Certification; (i.e., anti-idling ordinance, etc.) and the need for enforcement by police department. How best to accomplish this?
7. General discussion regarding the need for participation by Board of Ed, Zoning and Planning Boards, Shade Tree Committee, Open Space Committee and Vision Plan Committee. Also need member of Board of Health. This participation is the only way the GT will be able to move forward with categories such as Schools Involvement and Natural Resources.
8. Need to schedule next meeting has to be scheduled prior to Easter Egg Hunt. **We have confirmed that the resource center meeting room is available Thursday April 14th at 7:30.**

Respectfully submitted-

Barbara Coleman