

Borough of Park Ridge Green Team - Meeting Minutes - May 17, 2011

PRESENT: J. McDermott, V. Lemba, B. Beattie, D. Cawood, B. Coleman, S. Hopper, B. Thomason, R. Crisaffi, G. Bottinor, and members of the public.

Easter Egg Recap – Roseanne presented the handout used by GT members at Easter Egg Hunt, Steve and George advised as to reception by public of CFL handouts donated by Jay Roehmer and “seed sticks” donated by BCUA.

Green Fair at Town Picnic June 11th

1. Green Fair Plan/Giveaway for \$500 – Danielle suggested GT’s table have potting materials for GT members to work with attendees to plant seeds.
2. Possible vendors. Vendors confirmed: PRGT, PR Water Dept. and Tyco Animal Control to bring wildlife for viewing/education on protection of wildlife.
3. Other possibilities: PRHS Environmental Club, Library (w/”GREEN” info), Bergen S.W.A.N., Pascack Valley Sustainability Group, Representative from company that supplied solar panels on schools.
4. GT Table, Suggestions/Volunteers for the table? All members available will work some length of time to make sure table is covered.
5. Handout about GT – Roseanne to prepare a handout about the Green Team
6. Banner and Compost Bin as Demo. Steve will bring the banner and a compost bin with information for purchasing.
7. Hertz – James will approach Hertz to request a rep bring an electric car to Green Fair.

Recycling Update

1. Recycling Bins Bid results and Plan - Barbara confirmed with Helene that bids were received from 2 companies in response to the RFP’s that were published. Steve advised bid results were discussed at M&C meeting and members of the council were questioning the advertising on bins. Discussion regarding the recent Hillsdale press article regarding the advertising could “cheapen” the downtown, and M&C are considering the purchase of the bins outright to avoid the advertising. Also discussed, a Plan B approach that would have some of the bins installed in other locations including Municipal Properties and Athletic Fields/Park Areas.
2. Electronics Recycling Update – public is now able to recycle electronics at the recycling center. A walk-in container is available for e-waste, and will be emptied when full, at a cost to the town of \$150.00 per load.
3. BCUA School Grant opportunity Submitted for all (3) Schools - Vinnie explained how he worked with WR principal to compose and plan the Grant for WR, which EB and HS modeled after. Vinnie felt if we were not able to purchase all the bins needed for each plan, either we would use less for the upcoming year, or ask the PTO’s and possible available maintenance monies to make a contribution. Barbara confirmed with Bob Wright that all (3) bids were submitted on time, and provided a copy of each bid submitted for viewing by those present.
4. ANJR Report – Barbara provided a copy of a 1994 Association of New Jersey Recyclers commission report entitled “School Recycling Manual”. One of the committee members was Chuck Gasior, the former Park Ridge Borough Administrator. Steve advised he has spoken to Chuck Gasior, who explained that the Park Ridge schools had earned an award for their recycling efforts back then.
5. Implementation Plan for Schools in Sept - Barbara and Vinnie will review the manual and pull out what can be used in the schools once we know if the grants have been awarded. Vinnie will work with the custodians at all schools to implement the plans.

Sustainable New Jersey Progress Update

1. NJS EPA Award – Barbara circulated article found in The Record which reported that Sustainable Jersey has earned the highest award of the Environmental Protection Agency for its efforts.
2. Fleet Inventory Priority Items update – Steve and Council President confirmed that we would submit. James is working with Helene and Council President for the required documentation.
3. Water Conservation Priority Items update – Submitted existing conservation ordinance but will wait to see if it is accepted.
4. Points Submitted, New Points - Existing LEED ND Ordinance for Green Building Category Submitted, Energy Star Utility Data needs to be submitted for Municipal Buildings. Green Fair, Anti idling and Green Pledge are being worked on by the team for Submitting this year.
5. Timeline to Submit Points – **June 30th is the Deadline for 3rd Annual Sustainable Jersey awards Luncheon at the 2011 New Jersey League of Municipalities.** Goal is to complete the documentation by Mid June to verify the points are accepted.
6. Update on eRooms/Collaboration site for tracking GT tasks – Danielle, Barbara and James need to develop. Will be worked on after the Green Fair.
7. Natural Resources Update – Betsy discussed the Environmental Commission in other towns that have one and asked what the concern was. Steve discussed that it could slowly create another layer to get through for approval for projects. Betsy discussed that the EC could be used in an advisory role only, approval by EC would not have to be a policy for a project. The Natural Resources Inventory could be completed by the Planning Board but Steve discussed the possible costs could be high to complete this. Betsy is discussing best practices with neighboring towns.
8. Next Steps for 2011 Bronze and 2012 Silver NJS application – Trying to Submit for Bronze by June 15th. A plan needs to be developed for 2012 Points that GT and M&C could submit. Need to transfer NJS account from Helene to another person for 2012. Steve will let us know who that will be.

Ray Mittal and Bob Oppelt joined the meeting from the Planning Board - One of them will need to be appointed by the mayor to be on the GT and the other can join the meetings as a citizen. Discussed the LEED ND Ordinance and how it could be encouraged in the future.

Brigitte Bogart the Town Planner stopped by the meeting for a few minutes.

Park Ridge Council President attended the meeting - Discussed the NJS Points including Green Fleets Priority Item will be submitted, the LEED ND Ordinance, Recycling and the Natural Resources Inventory/Environmental Commission.

Tracy Schwamb, new team member. – Tracy was unable to attend the meeting, but will be working with Danielle on Green Fair at Town Picnic.

GT on Website/Email Account- Email account still needs to be created.

Community Project – Barbara suggested the “My Sister’s Garden”, which would be a raingarden installed at Sulak Field between the snack shack and fieldhouse. The garden will need to be designed and installed with various citizens groups, including PRAA and would fulfill a number of requirements to receive points with Sustainable Jersey. Barbara will work on a draft layout of the area.

New Items/Suggestions – James spoke about the garbage on the East Side of Mill Pond and what needs to be done to clean it up, and its condition’s impact on flooding in Hillsdale/Westwood. Council President discussed the Master and Vision Plan and what was discussed regarding the Mill Pond and the surrounding areas.

Discussion/Homework – Discussion regarding “LEED ND Green Building” ordinance and planning board enforcement of requirement in ordinance, ways to improve upon compliance. James will ask NJ chapter of the US Green Building Council to attend a meeting with the GT and the Planning Board for helping to understand how other Towns are implementing Green Building development in NJ. Roseanne will also research Low Cost/No Cost LEED Points for Future Projects in LEED ND in Business District.

Respectfully submitted-

Barbara Coleman