

## **Borough of Park Ridge Green Team - Meeting Minutes for Thursday January 19, 2012**

**Attendees– James McDermott, Danielle Cawood, Barbara Coleman, Betsy Thomasen, George Bottinor, Roseanne Crisafi, Vinny Lemba, Bob Bogert, Mark Falcon (with 2 Environmental Club/PRHS Students), John O'Donahue**  
**Meeting commenced 7:30 PM, adjourned 9:45 PM**

### 2012 Committee

1. Reappointments – James, Danielle, Barbara, Betsy, Roseanne, Vinny, George, Jay and John  
New Members – Bob Bogert, Mark Falcon, Tammy Levinson
2. Organization Structure – Sub Committees, Committee Protocol- Discussion as to need to increase membership of Green Team to effectively carryout planned and proposed events. Subcommittees (once determined) will need a GT member as head, who will then communicate directly with officers.
3. Motion by Betsy appointment for officers: James as Chairman, Danielle and Barbara as Vice-Chairs, motion seconded by George Bottinor, committee members voted unanimously in favor of appointments.
4. James advised committee that Bob O. has been appointed Councilman to fill empty seat of Terry Maguire, and Terry has appointed Bob Liaison to Green Team
5. James recognized Steve Hopper's contributions to the Green Team over the past year and all agreed he will be missed. Betsy suggested Green Team to ask for Steve to be re-appointed as a citizen-member. James will contact Bob O. to request Steve's reappointment as a citizen-member.
6. John O'Donahue introduced himself to attendees. Advised his interest is in solar installations, and he is Sharp certified for solar installations. Mayor asked him to join Green Team.
7. Member Involvement – Sub Committees/Events
8. Need to recruit additional members – suggestion for EB and WR PTO members. James to ask Bob to request appointments by Mayor.
9. James advised that future GT communications with M & C need to flow from Chairman to Council Liaison, who will then communicate to Mayor and Council.
10. Committee Rules going forward - James expressed that the role of an advisory committee is to work through protocol and communicate to our council liaison. Any issue of concern for the committee should first be discussed in a meeting. In the event any GT member should feel it necessary to approach the M&C publicly with regard to any unresolved matter of concern of the committee, the committee will vote in advance of such public appearance to express the concern. In the event any GT member should wish to speak on an issue of personal concern at a M&C meeting without a committee vote, the GT member will make it clear that they are speaking as a resident, and not as a member of the GT. George asked for clarification of the protocol. Danielle explained the need for structure in the committee and that this is needed to move the committee forward as an advisory committee.
11. Programs/Initiatives
  - i. Bylaws – a draft of proposed By-laws will be distributed with within the next month.
  - ii. Continue Recycling Programs – James and members thanked Bob Bogert for his work on helping to prepare the Recycling Newsletter that was mailed to residents and is posted on the Borough website. Discussion as to how to continue recycling education efforts with Schools, Borough, Residents, and Businesses.
  - iii. Partner with other committees and local organizations. Developing dialogue for potential win/win collaboration for programs with those organizations.
  - iv. Increase community participation in programs and events, develop Volunteer Network for events.
  - v. Betsy discussed an opportunity for Stream Monitoring of the Pascack Brook. She was in contact with the program and asked Mark if this is something the Environmental Club would consider. He said it sounded interesting and he would discuss at his next meeting with the Environmental Club.
  - vi. Education and Outreach with Schools – Mark said students were interested in the Palisades Interstate Park Cleanup, and would also like to include his Environmental Studies class student. Need to get BOE permission to participate and transportation is a concern. Barbara advised she had spoken to the organizer and there are grant funds available which could be used for transportation costs.
  - vii. Develop Partnerships and Programs with local businesses – need to reach out to Brittany Vozza (Chamber of Commerce), Rotary. Research other ways to communicate with other organizations.
  - viii. Grants Research and share opportunities for potential funding of various programs.
  - ix. Sustainable Jersey 2012 and Community Life Press Release – James spoke of article in this week's Community Life, what the GT has accomplished in the past year, and how proud we should all be of the work we have done on behalf of our town and our residents.
  - x. Make Green Fun/Cool, Explorers, Apps, Photos – TO BE CARRIED OVER
  - xi. Email Blasts – Green Tips – Newsletter, need to feed suggestions to Bill Beattie. Roseanne offered to research and provide.

- xii. Anti-idling – James advised that he heard that the Police Department is supportive of an anti-idling campaign to educate public on why no-idling zones are important.

1. Updates

1. Recycling

- i. James suggested meeting between Green Team, Borough, Recycling Coordinator, and Advanced Waste to discuss how recyclable materials are handled once picked up from residents and ways to encourage more recycling. Also need to determine how to spend remainder of 2011 GT budget (approximately \$100). Suggestion was made to purchase recycle bins for use by employees in Borough Hall.
- ii. Schools HS, EB, WR:
  - HS - BOE has purchased two recycling bins for outdoors – one is outside the gym entrance, the other is at the backdoor by the cafeteria.
  - EB - PTO approved \$1,000 to fund purchase of additional materials needed for recycling. Vinny provided material list to James. James also showed flyer EB PTO distributed to its membership advising of partnership with Park Ridge Green Team.
  - WR – Vinny advised picking up of recyclable materials and delivery to Recycling Center is still a problem. WR PTO voted to match EB funds for recycling purposes.
- iii. Electronics Recycling NJ 2011 – Per a Memo send by DEP to Mayor, since taking effect on January 1, 2011, the Electronic Waste Management Act has generated an estimated 40 MILLION pounds of recycled e-waste in New Jersey in 2011. E-waste makes up 2% of the solid waste in NJ, and is growing 2 -3 times faster than any other component of the solid waste stream.
- iv. Betsy's PB Jar Solution – CARRY OVER TO NEXT MONTH

2. Tree Grant

- i. New Grant through SJ – A \$3,000 matching grant has been submitted to SJ by Borough after being suggested by Green Team. The grant will match funds (which can be comprised of volunteer hours @ \$21/hour). Green Team suggested this would be a way to revitalize funding for the Shade Tree Committee. Bob O. advised James that he was planning to meet with the Shade Tree Committee
- ii. Tree Programs Research from Betsy – Betsy advised she was only able to find Borough ordinance that established the Shade Tree Committee. Will do some more research. She gave statistics for NJ compared to other states. Advised there are programs for Arbor Day (Tree City) and will further investigate.

3. 2012 Events Planning

- i. Earth Day – CARRY OVER TO NEXT MONTH
- ii. Take 5, EPA –CARRY OVER TO NEXT MONTH

- 4. Roseanne advised there will be a conference @ Bergen Community College on Sustainability issues. March 30<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM.

**Next Meeting February 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 in the First Friends Room**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Coleman