

Borough of Park Ridge Green Team - Meeting Minutes for Thursday February 21, 2012

Attendees– Rayjay Bishnoi, Bob Bogert, George Bottinor, Danielle Cawood, Barbara Coleman, Roseanne Crisafi , Vinny Lemba, Tammy Levinson, James McDermott, Bob Oppelt, Jay Roemer, Betsy Thomason, Donald Schwamb
Meeting commenced 7:30 PM, adjourned 9:45 PM

Invited Guest: Urszula Sural, AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador

1. Stream Monitoring-Invited Guest Urszula Sural presented some of the instructional samples and materials to be used in the stream monitoring event planned for Saturday March 3, 2012 10:00am check in with the students of the Park ridge High School Environmental Club. Waiver forms will be supplied for sign-offs for all students prior to participation in the event. Park Ridge TV will be filming this event for broadcast on local TV as a part of the PR Green team Education series which will be one of our focuses this year. PKRG TV will also produce educational videos for boro schools. Barbara will prepare "community service hours" letter for participating students.
2. Welcome New Members – Tammy Levinson and Donald Schwamb.
3. Welcome Bob O. – New Councilman & GT liaison.
4. Borough recycling bins – Bob O. advised Boro Administrator and Boro Recycling Coordinator met with Advanced Waste to discuss Boro recycling. Advanced rep indicated they have not encountered residents throwing recyclable materials out with trash, though they "do not open bags" to check for recycled materials in trash. GT members indicated they have seen neighbors put recycle materials out with trash, and Advanced does pick it up. Advanced indicated they would be willing to supply approximately 12 recycling containers to be used around the downtown at no charge to Boro. The containers would be maroon in color and have "Advanced Waste" displayed on them. GT members indicated the Mayor was opposed to advertising throughout the downtown. Boro Administrator to be supplied a prototype of the proposed bins by Advanced.
5. Motion was made to elect new Secretary for Green Team, motion seconded and Roseanne Crisafi nominated and elected. Roseanne accepted the position.
6. A draft of the proposed Green Team By-laws was distributed for discussion. James asked that if anyone has comments or suggested changes, they should e-mail him by the end of the weekend.
7. A Cleanup of Electric Lake, Pascack Brook and Mill Brook are planned for May 5, 2012 - checking into public/private area issues along with liability. Urszula asked if the Ambassadors could participate in the cleanup and Barbara informed her that we will contact her once we know the details for the event.
8. Recycling in schools continues to grow and there are still some concerns about picking up commingle's. James discussed meeting with Bob Wright and the need for additional recycling bins to complete the program. James told Bob that the HS still needs to \$8 to \$10K to cover the school for bins and staging of materials. James suggested that the district meet with the borough and their hauler to combine contracts and ask the hauler for any support for recycling. James was also going to discuss this with the Mayor also at his meeting later in the week. Committee plans to contact Board of Education to complete recycling in schools.
9. Vinny will be visiting High school to assess their needs, to increase recycling, currently only a few bins have been purchased and are in place.
10. Roseanne and Vinny to start on Solar Project Education for students. Barbara to provide contact information for SMAC Corp. (solar panel contractor for schools)
11. Shade tree Commission was discussed in terms of establishing new tree planting and maintenance goals, taking into account public education, varieties planted location and method of planting and care. Green Team recommended to Bob O. and Borough Administrator to apply for \$3,000 grant to revive Shade Tree Committee. Grant info was sent from Sustainable Jersey and certified communities we're favored for grant award. Borough is waiting for grant decision and Bob O. has met with Shade Tree Committee. Betsy offered to help Shade tree Committee if needed the future.
12. Town Picnic will be June 9 with a rain date of June 10, discussion of what Green Team will have on exhibit. James asked George to discuss Green Team participation with Rec committee.

13. Email blast for Earth Day mentioned with facts, information included and for posting on Town Website.

New Items

14. Bob Bogert discussed Solar Homes event at St Paul's and invited committee to attend.
15. Betsy discussed her concerns regarding Packsack Brook Foot Bridge including disturbing established planted areas and threatened species' habitats, walkway size, dredging issues and cost of this project in terms of results. Committee discussed these issues and debated the Green Team's role regarding projects and natural resource considerations. James stated that issues related to Natural Resources are included in the Sustainable Jersey Program and the Green Team should discuss them if they have concerns.
16. Roseanne advised there will be a conference "Practical Uses of Sustainable Tax Dollars" @ Bergen Community College on Sustainability issues. Friday March 30, 2012 7:30 - 10:30 am starting with Registration and Networking Breakfast, this is a free event. Will send a link for registration in the next few days. Presenters will include, Joe DiCara, Sustainable Jersey, NJ DEP Sustainability Officer and more.

Next Mtg will be moved to Wed 2/28.