

Borough of Park Ridge Green Team: Meeting Minutes for Tuesday January 25, 2013

Attendees: Bob Bogert, Jerry Brunetto, Danielle Cawood, Barbara Coleman, Roseanne Crisafi, Vinny Lemba, James McDermott, Bob Oppelt, Jay Roemer, Betsy Thomason

Meeting commenced 7:30 PM, adjourned 9:30 PM

Notes

1. Appointing of committee positions for 2013 are as follows:
Green Team Committee Chair - James McDermott
Co-Chairs – Barbara & Danielle
Secretary – Roseanne, Betsy to be backup secretary
Budgets for Committee – Betsy with advisement from Bob O
2. New meeting guidelines were created to streamline meetings, keep to scheduled time, stay on topic and increase efficiency. These guidelines include:
Start time: 7:30pm
End time 9:15pm
Committee attendees asked to follow meeting agenda topics
Introduce new items when indicated on agenda
3. Budget needed for tracking expenses and appropriate funds of tree planting/forestry grant awards, Bob O advised Betsy learn purchase order and budgeting.
4. Barbara to coordinate next stream monitoring event with Mark Falcon for the High School Environmental Club and the new watershed ambassador Melanie. Mark asked to continue stream monitoring event as biannual event to check water quality/stream health by monitoring and assessing living organisms.
5. Discussed the Bi-State watershed cleanup 'Adopt a Beach' clean water challenge of NJ Clean Communities and inviting the Hackensack River Keeper to the event, reviewed plans to go into Rockland County for stream cleanup. Date for Bi-State cleanup planned for April 20, 2013.
6. Date for Green Fair will be first or second weekend in June at town picnic, possible attendees include Ramsey Outdoor with kayaks, LL Bean, Hackensack River keeper and others. There was some discussion about vendor fees charged by the town for participants.
7. Revised By-Laws draft handed out to committee members and reviewed.
8. Suggestions were made to increase signage to draw attention to recycling on athletic fields to increase recycling. Mention was made for snow resistant trash can covers to reduce snow/water in trash bag liners, the liquid makes disposal more difficult.
9. With strategic locations and increased signage visibility we anticipate improving recycling in the athletic fields.
10. Local businesses encouraged to use the town recycling area for cardboard and other items and reduce their cost for recycling. Businesses do not receive tags for recycling center unless they pay \$10 fee, only town residents receive them.
11. Sustainable Jersey has a new website and registered communities can log in to view their profile, a new municipal dashboard to access their data. Bronze Certifications by SJ is good for 3 years. 2014 or 2015 possible to work towards Silver certification. 2013 plan is to plan and implement the 2 new grants, community forestry and wildlife interaction plan. The work on these grants will carry us through to 2014.
12. Ideas for the 2013 include an improved recycling program for the High School; both elementary schools have increased recycling from program start. State law requires contractors to proper disposal of light bulbs containing Mercury, which is a hazardous toxin and must be kept out of the waste stream.
13. Suggestions were made to include additional information about recycling on the Green Team web page.
14. With Forestry grant planning must be coordinated with town planner and utility to address proper placement of tree species.

15. Included in the Community Forestry Plan is a requirement for tree mapping of town to develop a comprehensive plan for tree planting.
16. Some Green Team committee members will attend the SJ awards 1/29/13.
17. New legislation dictates pesticide free fields, GT met last year with Bob Wright, PRAA to discuss avoiding chemical use on athletic fields, treat as needed or eliminate chemical use all together.
18. Committee discussed green infrastructure programs to reduce overflow from storms. Storm water management can be increased with rain gardens, permeable paving and other strategies to mitigate excess storm runoff.
19. NJ Tree Foundation has a free training session on proper tree planting and care, tree seedlings are free and must be planted on municipal property.

Next Meeting Tuesday Feb 18th