

ROXBURY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2014

Attendees:

Present: Martin Schmidt, Linda Alnemy, Tricia Fragale, Jackie Vitiello, Mike Smith, Sonja Boon

Public: Stan Nathanson, Steve Letkowski, Dave Los, Ken Stagg, Richard Vedder, Anne Paust

Roxbury High School Environmental Club: None

Absent: Bill Benkendorf

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM

Administrative Projects

Budget Update- T Fragale provided an update on the REC budget.

The 2014 budget started at 6k. 9. Additional bee keeping grant dollars from ANJEC are not included in this number.

Operating Expenses - \$2000 budget; \$746.01 remaining

Community Garden - \$3000 budget; \$1,138.24 remaining

Bee Keeping Program - \$300 budget; \$300 to be used for shed repair

Bat Box Program - \$100 budget; \$100 remaining

Education/Public Outreach - \$600 budget; \$600 remaining

\$285 was requested for garden supplies/tools. A purchase order for Home Depot will be request from finance by T. Fragale for L Alnemy.

L Alnemy to providing pricing for garden benches.

T Fragale looking to purchase EC shirts for the group.

The approved 2015 budget includes:

Account	Budget for 2015
EC Operating Budget	\$1250
Community Garden	\$3,250
Bee Keeping Program	\$1000
Maple Sugaring Project	\$100
Education/Public Outreach	\$300
Total	\$6000

Holiday Get Together- A holiday get together will begin after the REC meeting at 8:15 pm, Dec 11 at Bensi in Roxbury.

Planning Board Update- Black Rock Plaza plans include a convenience store, laundromat, gym and possibly a daycare

The Villages building plan off Shippenport Road was presented.

T Fragale indicated Hercules Corporation presented a concept plan to the township

Fennimore Update

M Schmidt reported that a court case took place today that overturned the taking of the site by NJDEP. Case is under review.

Matters Presented by the Public

Pictures from the Highland Boat Tour were shared with the REC.

Dave Los discussed the possibility of his daughter, a landscaping engineer making some recommendations for the permaculture garden

Matters Presented by Commissioners

Maple Sugar Trees

Maple sugar trees have been tagged for community outreach program in February. M Smith to provide T Fragale with additional detail.

ANJEC Outreach Program

ANJEC is offering an opportunity for Environmental Commissions to collaborate in the development of a community outreach program and educational campaign to increase energy conservation awareness/practices. There is a December 8, 2014 deadline to apply. T Fragale will draft a brief letter of interest and email to commissioners for review.

Commissioners expressed interest in participating in this initiative. Tricia discussed the potential commitment requirements from commissioners.

2015 Commissioner Positions

T Fragale indicated there may be two openings on the commission in 2015. Dave Los and Richard Vedder were asked if they have an interest in serving as commissioners for a two year term. Both will provide M Schmidt with a resume for review by town council.

Streams/Waterways

L Vitiello reported that a Trails Clean-Up will occur in Ledgewood Park on Saturday, April 25, 2015. Other possible locations for clean-up include Drake's Brook (5 miles into the trail)

State of the Watershed Conference- Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9-11:30 AM.

LaMott water testing at Ledgewood Brook occurred in October, 2014.

Monofillament Project

M Smith will provide a tally to T Fragale for 2013 and 2014.

Community Garden

L Alnemy reported that she has started sending out 2015 garden registration forms.

Clean-up for the garden is underway. Improvements for next year include:

- Gate closing
- Port a Potty

Thank you cards will be provided to volunteers for their extensive assistance throughout the garden season.

Community Apiary

Bill Benkendorf donated a shed that was installed in front of the apiary viewing deck

T Fragale reported that the apiary grant is closed out

A roof will be applied to the new shed Marty will obtain materials; has secured a contractor to donate labor.

M Smith presented a request by NJ Bee Association for collaboration. The REC opted not to be involved.

L Alnemy will inquire if the Roxbury Food Pantry can accept gift cards to Shop Rite to supplement their fresh vegetables over the winter months.

M Smith requested if we could put together a survey to ask gardeners about increased yield, resulting from the bees. S Boon to draft a survey and provide to commissioners for review.

Permaculture Garden

Mike Smith indicated plants intended for the permaculture garden were planted to over-winter in one plot located in the garden.

Next Meeting

December 11, 2014

Adjournment

Mike Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, and L Alnemy seconded motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.