

ROXBURY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2015

Attendees:

Present: T. Fragale; M. Schmidt; L. Alnemy; D. Los; R. Vetter; J. Vitiello

Public:

ANJEC: N. Checko

Roxbury High School Environmental Club:

Absent: B. Benkendorf; S. Boon

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

October minutes were not available; draft was pending email distribution to commissioners.

No matters presented by the public; RHS Environmental Club; or Commissioners

Administrative

No Planning Board update for November.

Budget - The budget request for 2016 was submitted to finance for \$7500.

Fennimore Update – M. Schmidt reported that all was good on the mountain; no issues to report regarding the landfill or the NJDEP equipment operating on site.

Projects

ANJEC Energy Campaign – N. Checko requested an update on the status. EC reported that they had partnered with Techniart at Suckasunny Day which was relatively successful. The Library Display was up for the month of October; Lawn Signs and Brochures had been distributed/posted. Discussion commenced. The desired outcome of the program is for residents to do something to conserve energy. It is suspected they may be doing so, but aren't reporting their efforts. Suggestions: ANJEC to be admin on

the REC Facebook page to provide postings, updates, etc.; plan for public programs; more use of social media; encourage residents to make a new year's resolution to conserve energy in 2016. N. Checko reported that she had met with NJ Natural Gas and they are struggling as well to get people on board and get the message out. M. Schmidt offered to speak with Hope House and Techniart regarding a program for seniors and religious groups. Consider looking into Green Faith Churches. Plan to arrange a program for the 2 Roxbury Seniors Groups over the winter.

Public Outreach/Education – (see Energy Campaign)

Streams/Waterways – J. Vitiello attended the State of the Watershed Conference. Results for all the Roxbury sites that were sampled dropped 2-3 points each. Results were emailed to all commissioners. Based on “bug count”; seems some bugs are more contaminant tolerant. Other towns have lower scores as well. Report should be posted online by RHA soon. It has not yet been presented to the Highlands Commission. A wet June could have skewed the results of the sampling efforts.

Monofilament Bins – need counts and cleaning; M. Schmidt not present.

Community Garden – L. Alnemy reported that the year-end meeting went well. Registration for next season is ongoing; 12 have already registered for next year. Getting good feedback from gardeners. Spoke with master gardeners group about possibly using them as volunteers for the permaculture project; they are sending an application for her to complete. Requested status of PO for supplies. She contacted DPW who will be doing some site clean-up for her. Dead trees have been cut and wood was removed. Picnic benches are still pending. Batz completing mower engine repair. SLAP program is restructuring and she will communicate with them again when they are ready. Overall, garden is running well. A registration drive will be held at the senior center.

Apiary – no update; M. Smith not present. Roxbury Social Services sent a letter thanking the members of the apiary for their donation from Suckasunny Day honey sales.

Permaculture/Pollinator Garden – Master gardeners application pending; L. Alnemy may need more info on this project for the application. Project will likely proceed as “pods” to make it an ongoing effort that people can assist with vs. doing the entire site at the same time.

Next Meeting

December 10, 2015

Adjournment – 8:50pm