

Englewood Environmental Commission meeting February 8, 2016

Commissioners Present: Ellen Forman, Crystal Brown, Sara Stroman, Chelsea Gleis, Jack Silberman, Dr. Michael Passow, Steve Wiessner

Guest: Kevin Lake

Start time: 7:34pm - going forward, environmental commission meetings will begin at 7:00PM

Ellen welcomed Dr. Michael Passow, who was recently appointed to the Environmental Commission.

Committee Reports:

Sustainable Jersey:

We are currently eligible to receive 120 points and need 150 points to achieve bronze re-certification.

Flat Rock Brook:

Steve spoke about the deer fence issue. Flat Rock had a public meeting two weeks ago. The plan is for the forest environment to be healthier and more diverse. The fence will enclose 100 acres.

There was a discussion of the request by the Commission to allow members of the Environmental Commission to attend Flat Rock Brook board meetings. The Commission will hold a meeting with Flat Rock's Executive Committee on the last Monday in February or the last Monday in March or the first Monday in April.

Open Space/Recreation:

Jack has been working on the issue of lighting in Englewood. He reported that Franz hasn't spoken to his contact at PSE&G about Herring Park. Regarding the city's energy use, Jack has been going through a number of energy bills provided to him by the city. The city is still paying per kilowatt for street lights. The city is paying more for street lights than residents are paying.

New & Open Business:

Ellen reported that PSE&G has new vegetation power source rules. Of Englewood's non-mature trees, there are 7 that are in the way of the power line. Of the seven, two will need to be removed, and five need to be trimmed.

A teacher from the Quarles School Maryann Caine is doing a program about recycling plastics. Tomer, the owner of Patisserie Florentine, throws away over 50 pounds of coffee per week. Crystal said that Bergen Community College has wonderful environmental programs, including composting. Crystal gave Sara the contact information of an Englewood resident on staff there.

The library received a request from a solar company Geoscapes. The company will be setting up a table at the green fair.

Officers:

Regarding officers, the spot of vice president needed to be voted on. Crystal nominated Jack Silberman. Michael Passow seconded. Chelsea nominated Michael Passow, who declined. The Commission voted in favor of Jack Silberman becoming the vice president of the Commission.

For officers of the green team, Ellen said that for officers of the green team, the Environmental Commission has the power to appoint officers, and that Ryan Hasko had stepped forward to be the green team chair, and Chelsea Gleis the vice-chair. Crystal said that rather than the Commission choosing and presenting the officers to the green team, for the Commission to pre-approve the candidates and let the green team vote in approval or disapproval and give them the chance to nominate other candidates.

Bi-laws:

Crystal offered to take the lead on putting together the bi-laws for the Environmental Commission. Ellen said she thinks it's something the Commission should do together, but that Crystal could certainly take the lead. Chelsea made a motion for Crystal to lead the Commission in developing the bi-laws. Jack seconded.

Steven said he thinks the Commission will be better off focusing on the structure and bi-laws of the Commission rather than the goals for the future.

A motion was made to hold a Saturday workshop to discuss the Commission bi-laws. Crystal suggested holding the workshop on whichever of the predetermined Mondays doesn't work for Flat Rock Brook.

Green Fair:

Jack reported that he spoke to the New Jersey Bat Man, and he can be at the Green Fair. Ellen reported that a number of vendors and activities are confirmed for the green fair.

Public Comment:

Kevin Lake said that he is thrilled to see the relationship between Flat Rock Brook Nature Center and the Environmental Commission become more collaborative. Kevin recommended that the meeting between Flat Rock and the Environmental Commission be publicized to the public. Kevin also recommended that the Commission become involved in the new downtown lighting plan early on. In terms of the planning board, the way the Tree Ordinance is currently drafted, applications to the planning board are exempt.

Anthony made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:48PM. Ellen seconded. EEC