

## Englewood Environmental Commission Meeting -- 11 Apr 2016

Start time: 7:15 pm

Roll Call: Ellen Forman, Sara Stroman, Jack Silberman, Crystal Brown (by phone until 7:38), Stephen Wiessner, Michael Passow. Guest: Kevin Lake

Note: Chelsea Gleis asked to resign as a Commissioner, but will stay on the Green Team and Sustainable Jersey.

Motion to approve the March 2016 Minutes made by Jack, seconded by Sara; unanimously accepted.

### Correspondence

Garden Club – A representative asked about the proposed Tree Ordinance and plantings programs. She is personally interested in seeing more trees planted in Veterans Park.

CME Associates—A copy of their permit application for stream cleaning to alleviate flooding in Overpeck Creek & Metlzer Brook was provided to the Commission – Sara volunteered to examine it in more detail.

Community Gardens – Two residents inquired about having plots – Crystal has responded by e-mails about schedule for Third Street Community Garden and other information –see below for more about this site.

### Open Business

To fill the position of Secretary for the Englewood Environmental Commission, Jack moved, seconded by Sara, to elect Michael; unanimously accepted.

Third Street Community Garden – Crystal explained that all participants must have their plots prepared for planting by 15 May, and ready for planting, must be fully planted by 15 June. Crystal noted the need to update the information about this and the Environmental Commission contact information on the City of Englewood website expeditiously.

At this time, there are 16 plots in the Community Garden. 2 are reserved for teaching plots. Some long-time participants request the same plot each year, but all are required to submit an updated application annually with information about who will be involved. Crystal explained that organizations are also permitted to submit an application.

On occasion, people may lose interest and not follow through or clean up at the end of the season. In such cases, they are not permitted back. There is room at the location to expand the number of plots, if necessary. Each plot is approximately 5 x 8 feet and subdivided into 2-1/2 x 8 feet. In the past few years, all plots have been occupied. Ellen noted that the City plans to buy a composter for the Garden site. Crystal pointed out that participants may not use chemicals or GMOs.

Commission discussion asked questions about developing new regulations and imposing use fees. It was agreed to develop a form to track usage and pay attention to past practices. This will allow the Commission to base decisions on data.

Meetings with Superintendent of Schools – Michael met with Robert Kravitz on 22 Mar to introduce him to the EEC and related issues. Jack has also met with him about Sustainable Jersey. It was suggested that Jack attend a Board of Education meeting to present information about this and related programs, and to urge greater sharing of school initiatives.

Environmental Commission Goals – Examination of the current posted Goals and other parts of our City web page now seem outdated. Sara will review these and make editorial suggestions for May meeting. Related issues involve description of the Commission’s Powers, which are established by the State, and the By-Laws. Crystal volunteered at a previous meeting to create By-laws. Ellen stated that she reached out to former EEC members to find out if the Commission ever had By-laws and possibly procure a copy.

Green Fair update – This event is scheduled for 16 Apr in Veterans Park. Ellen distributed the current version of the “Green Fair Checklist” for Commission discussion. Plans seem to be moving forward reasonably well, but as this is the first time we are hosting such an event, we will have a thorough debriefing in a future meeting.

Related to this, planting the Pollinator Garden will begin on Friday, 15 Apr, at 1:30 pm, leaving some final work to be completed during the Green Fair.

Planning Board Update – Anthony was unable to attend so this is postponed to next month.

#### New Business

Arbor Day – This will be celebrated on the last Friday in April. Plans are underway to plant a tree. This led into a discussion of how Englewood can continue to receive recognition as a “Tree City.”

Ellen will not be available in May, so Jack will conduct the meeting. Ellen also raises questions about the need for meetings in July and August; and it was decided to re-examine this at the June meeting.

Sara asked a question concerning a Public Comment in the January Meeting about lighting at the Library. Ellen stated that she invited the gentleman who discussed this with the EEC to help educate residents on the importance of proper lighting at the upcoming Green Fair. He agreed, and will be discussing Dark Sky Organization and its focus on stopping light pollution, and efficient lighting fixtures. Additionally, Jack indicated that, on behalf of the Commission, he has requested information about pricing and related matters concerning LED for the City. Jack indicated that the Commission has requested information about pricing and related matters concerning LED and Dark Sky lighting changes for the City.

Representatives from the Commission and the Flat Rock Brook Nature Association will meet on 25 Apr at 7 pm to discuss questions concerning attendance at FRBNA Board Meetings and coordination of projects and activities of mutual interest.

#### Public Comment

Kevin Lake raised questions concerning several issues discussed during the Board meeting, including lighting and guiding documents. He also reminded the Commission that concerns have been raised about water quality in both municipal buildings and streams. These concerns will be discussed further in future meetings.

Kevin also indicated the revised Tree Ordinance should be ready shortly and will be distributed for consideration. He is concerned about ongoing clearing of trees around the City, as well as debris left after construction.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:37 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J Passow