

Englewood Environmental Commission Meeting -- 13 June 2016
Englewood City Hall – HR Conference Room

Start time: 7:08 pm

Roll Call: Ellen Forman, Crystal Brown, Jack Silberman, Anthony Brown, Sara Stroman, Stephen Wiessner, Michael Passow.

Motion to approve the May 2016 Minutes made by Jack, seconded by Michael; unanimously accepted.

Correspondence

Flat Rock Brook - "Water Quality Issues in New Jersey" has been changed to July 21. The building is installing expanded roof solar panels.

Tim Dacey informed us that the City is installing LED lighting in the Dean Street Parking Garage. There are additional proposals for other municipal buildings.

We will have an article and image in "My Englewood." Ellen asked for suggestions for the fall issue. The County of Bergen awarded \$300 to the EEC for a mini-grant clean-up project.

Open Business

Planning Board update – Anthony – several meetings have been cancelled

Problems about signage are being discussed. Stapling to City trees is not permitted and needs to be addressed with Tim Dacey and other officials.

Sustainable Jersey update – Chelsea met the deadline for submitting 190 pts, 7 categories, and 19 actions. We are now in review.

Third Street Community Garden – We need to update the application. Ellen and Crystal made suggestions for consideration. A revised form will be posted soon. If sufficient interest exists, more beds can be developed in adjacent lots.

New Business

Environmental Commission By-Laws

Steve provided examples from other Municipalities, including Hillsborough and Paramus. Ellen will provide copies to members. Crystal will take the lead, with Jack's help, in creating a suitable document for Englewood. They will report on progress at the July meeting.

Among points discussed to clarify the Environmental Commission Mission & Goals:

- Establishment of Standing Committees with each member leading an expertise area
- What exactly is our role? Is it captured in the existing Mission Statement? The current Mission Statements suggests the following:

We are to advise on environmental impacts, assist in sustainability projects, promote environmental education efforts, inform citizens about environmental issues, and coordinate community involvement in environmental issues.

- What should be the responsibility of the Green Team and what of the Commission? Are we using the correct guidelines? What should we be doing from among those listed?
- What should be the appropriate process to get actions resolved? What should be done by the Green Team? By the City? By the Commission? Who should follow up on actions?
- What are the major concerns? How can we become more proactive?
Some tactical suggestions put forth included:
- What lawn chemicals are permitted? Do people have the right to obtain a list of chemicals being used on neighboring yards? If so, who should they call for this?
- How effective are current City Recycling programs?
- Should we invite City Department head to present at Commission meetings once or twice a year, or as needed?
- Should we promote a campaign to reduce use of plastic bags or and increase use of ones own bags? If so, should such a program focus on businesses or residents?
- Should we create a “Sustainability Checklist”? How can we coordinate this with the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board?
- What programs can we create to attract more of the local community? If the City holds a Harvest celebration in the fall, what can we do as the Commission?

Other Discussion:

- Should we invite Carl from the DPW to meet with us, first providing a list of focus questions?
- Two dead animals (opossum, groundhog) were seen at 3rd St? Who has responsibility for disposal? Attempts to clarify this through calls to City departments met with circular responses. Should the city try to ascertain the reason for these deaths? Could it be poisoning by foraging in garbage?
- Our web site needs improvements? It should include FAQs, info-facts, links to ANJEC, and more.
- Herring Field update – Jack has inquired about getting metering in the park with on/off switches or photo cells.

Public Comments

None

Motion to Adjourn at 8:26 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J Passow

Next meeting 11 Jul

