

**Englewood Environmental Commission  
Minutes for September 12, 2016  
City Hall - HR Conference Room**

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call: Ellen Forman, Sara Stroman, Crystal Brown, Steven Wiessner, Jack Silberman, Michael J Passow; Excused: Anthony Davis

Guests: Kevin Lake, Candida Stroman, Adam Brown

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion by Crystal Brown, seconded by Sara Stroman, Minutes of the August 8, 2016 meeting were approved.

**Chair Comments/Correspondence**

Ellen Forman announced that the September MyEnglewood submission will focus on planting trees. Councilman Cobb asked about the tree permit process, but Ellen indicated it is not within the purview of the Commission. The 101 North Woodland tree replacement plan was received, and was placed for discussion under New Business.

**Subcommittees Leadership Assignments:**

- 1) Development & Planning - Anthony
- 2) Education, Publicity, Public Outreach/Green Team – Sara  
Will ask for deadline schedules for publicity

The Green Team needs a new Chair with the departure of Ryan Hasko. Chelsea has volunteered to Chair the Green Team, stepping up from Vice Chair. Chelsea submitted necessary forms to receive Bronze Certification for Sustainable NJ. We have unofficial information that we have been approved. We appreciate the efforts made for this by Chelsea and City agencies that cooperated with her

- 3) Environmental Health – Michael

We will check with Health Department about possible issues for consideration.

- 4) Energy – Jack

Cost estimates have been received for Herring Field lighting.

- 5) Flat Rock Brook Liaison- Michael/Steve

Ryan Hasko, FRB Land Manager, has accepted a new position with New Jersey Audubon, and left Englewood. More solar panels are going in next Friday. This will create a total of 88, and should generate approximately 40-50% of the electricity now used.

TD Bank is sponsoring a “Friday Bring Change” day. Whole Foods will provide a 5% donation for eligible purchases next Tuesday. Flat Rock Brook is exploring the next steps for the deer fence project.

The Annual Meeting will be 7:30 next Monday, and all Commissioners are invited to attend.

## 6) Open Space & Community Gardens – Crystal

The Community Garden is still growing. It is not too late for cold crops, such as dark leafy greens and other frost-tolerant species. Conditions are good for peppers. The turtle eggs hatched, and we have images and the shells. We will create a database of who is in the Garden this year.

It was suggested we find out what the City and County has been spraying to combat mosquitoes. Perhaps we can check with Jim O’Neill, Environmental Reporter for North Jersey Media.

### Open Business:

#### 1) Finalization of the revised Community Garden Application

The Commission reviewed comments about the draft version during discussion in the August meeting. Sara will make final revisions. It will be submitted to the City for posting on the Environmental Commission page. Facebook and Twitter are also available.

#### 2) Finalization of the Mission Statement & Goals Review

Sara reported that the Mission Statement will serve as is.

The Goals require further consideration. These will be cleaned up for the next meeting.

It was agreed we should support the resolution for Sustainability in the City of Englewood and provide a hot link to resolution on the website.

For the October meeting we agreed to review such issues as maintenance and removal of trees on City Rights of Way and the proposed Tree Ordinance.

### New Business:

#### 1) Discussion of How and What to address regarding reviews of Tree Replacement Plans on private properties. This came about because T & M Associates sent Ellen a tree replacement plan and engineering review. This has not been past practice, but it was nice to have the opportunity.

Questions discussed included:

What is a suitable time period for providing response?

Who should provide the response?

What are we responsible for in an application? Do we have the expertise?

This led to discussion that we formerly received Board of Adjustment plans, but apparently are no longer receiving these. Who should be follow up on this? Possible Anthony in his liaison role.

Under guidelines of the current tree ordinance, the Commission is mentioned with respect to tree species. But under the new proposed ordinance, the Commission has nothing to do with a tree replacement plan. Some drafts may have been changed by City Engineer and/or City Attorney, without consultation with us.

It was suggested that we invite the City Arborist to a meeting.

#### 2) Environmental Commission Slide Presentation Talking Points

Michael will be the point person to receive suggestions.

- 3) Jack met with School Superintendent Robert Kravitz with respect to bats. They will explore working with middle school science classes and try to find a way to build bat houses.

Public Comments:

- 1) Kevin Lake: Concerning the proposed Tree Ordinance, he explained why the Commission is not mentioned in new ordinance. He also informed us that inclusion of the species lists replaced the need for discussion. Replacement regulations are more specific now. Landmark trees can be identified and recommended for special treatment.

Kevin reminded the Commission that our Powers come from State Statues. The City passes enabling ordinances. Even if not we are not mentioned in these, if it is in the State Law, we still have jurisdiction.

- 2) Other discussion concerns situations in which code enforcement in areas of interest to the Commission seems lax. This is disappointing. There are many areas where we might consider exploring tighter adherence to regulations for many issues (ex, recycling by restaurants).
- 3) There was additional discussion concerning timing of requests for response. Most must be provided within specific number of days.

Next Meeting:

Due to the Columbus Day holiday, our next meeting will be on Nov 14.

Motion to Adjourn was accepted at 8:21.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael J Passow, Secretary