

Oakland Environmental Commission

April 3, 2018

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM by Lee Haymon. Alex Myers, Erich Kamm, Kevin Mauro and Carol Peterson were present. Nancy Krause, Gina Mayer-Costa and Michael Kozak were excused. Councilman Pat Pignatelli attended as liaison.
2. Meeting Announcement: This meeting is being held in accordance with the open public meetings law, duly announced, advertised, and posted in the municipal building.
3. Open to public – David Blanke –Seton Hall Dr.- spoke of his interest in the environment issues as a new resident in Oakland. He teaches wilderness survival skills and is interested in becoming a member of this commission. He will submit an application.
4. Meeting Minutes Review from 3-6-18 – tabled to May

5. Old Business

- a. Potash Lake Recreation Area – sign – The Recreation Commission has offered to fund a sign at the entrance to the parking lot on West Oakland Ave.
- b. Stewart Woods Nature guide/map ANJEC grant application– Nancy Krause is planning to resubmit an updated grant application. Lee Haymon will help her.
- c. Stewart Woods /trail maintenance – Woodchip spreading will take place in April along the trails in the Woods. Commissioners are invited to take part in the project
- d. Student member of EC – Cali O’Neal – could not make meeting, but is interested.
- e. Team Up to Clean Up! – This is taking place on Saturday, April 21st, starting at the cafeteria of the Valley Middle School. Groups will work at Great Oak Park, Stewart Woods, Potash Lake trail and boat dock, and along the Ramapo River near the train trestle. The event will end at Stewart Woods where a red oak tree is being planted by the Shade Tree Commission in memory of Don Wilson, former local landscaper. Refreshments will be provided.
- f. FLOW Film Festival summary – Attendance has been good at the first 3 films. The 4th film was delayed till April 5th due to snow. Butterflies are the final topic.
- g. Bee Hive Resolution and letter – Kevin Mauro has drafted a letter opposing the proposed bee-keeping regulations. Additions were made to the letter in support of bees. Dr. David Gilead of WPU is an important resource in beekeeping science.

6. New Business

- a. Milkweed for Butterfly Park – Erich Kamm reported he received milkweed plants to be used in a butterfly park. The project would be valuable for Greenteam points

7. Committee Updates

- a. Town Council Update – Support of the Bergen County grant toward purchase of the Sandy Beach site was discussed at the last Council meeting. Commissioners did a presentation in support of a purchase of the property with the open-space grant money. The Council discussed and approved acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$1.4 million subject to approval by the Bergen County Freeholders. The Oakland Recreation Comm. could also support this project.
- b. Great Oak Park Update –preparation work on the Great Lawn is being done. More tree dedications can be scheduled.
- c. Green Team Update – Carol Peterson reported that the Green team is growing, but needs more members. A meeting is scheduled for April 12th.
- d. Recycling Update – Lee Haymon is preparing a display on battery recycling.
- e. Open Space Update (Bi-County Property/Sandy Beach) – Consideration to obtain open-space is ongoing. Further appraisals of vacant land are needed.

f. Communications – website/crossroads – Gina Mayer-Costa is continuing to enter information on the website. Sign-up for the Clean-up is on the Borough website.

8. Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Update

a. Current Projects – Board of Adjustment plans are being submitted to the Commission for comments. Plans were distributed for review.

9. Budget Status – Budget discussions are ongoing.

10. Open to the Public – David Blanke commented on the need for battery recycling and bicycle paths.

11. Close Meeting –Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. Next meeting May 1, 2018 at 7:30pm