

Oakland Environmental Commission November 12, 2013

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairwoman Nancy Krause. Members present were Lee Haymon, Mark Ostapczuk, Gina Mayer-Costa, Alex Myers and Michael Kozak. Council liaison Betsy Stagg was present.
- 2) Meeting Minutes Review from 10/1/2013 - tabled.

3) Old Business

a) Members/status -results of council meeting – Gina is officially a Commissioner for the remainder of Mike Lynch’s 3 year term. Alex Myers was given Gina’s 2 year alternate term.

b) ANJEC annual meeting summary – Nancy spoke on the seminars on Open-space and Stormwater review which she attended. Speakers were from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and US Fish & Wildlife. They can be contacted to give advice for best use and care of open-space and passive recreation areas. Jerri attended the Flood Preparation session. Methods for avoiding river contamination during flood episodes were presented.

c) Stewart's Woods Update – Bronze plaque was received and its boulder is in place. Six benches and 2 picnic tables have been installed along the trail. Garbage pails were ordered. A drop-curb is being installed for an accessible crosswalk from the Woods to the Rec. Fields.

i) Eagle Scout project progress report – Scouts completed the trail preparation with logs and woodchips. Nancy Krause signed the completion papers for the Eagle project.

ii) Nature-trail pamphlet – Pamphlet needs to be created. A project for another Eagle Scout candidate or an independent project by a Ramapo College or High School student was proposed. Pamphlets showing trails and explaining nature points can be placed at the entrance kiosks, in the public schools and in the Municipal Building.

d) NRI – comments to be submitted by Nov 14 - Which names are to be used for open - spaces which have been known by more than one name over time was discussed. A name for the 40 acres along the Ramapo River by Doty Rd has yet to be decided. Property boundaries for property off of Breakneck Rd need to be verified and a correct designation given.

e) ANJEC Land Preservation Road Show – Gina Mayer-Costa – Lessons learned include: Land Management Plans need to be created for the Open-space properties to plan for long-term care and use of property such as a walking/biking trail, gardens or other passive uses.

4. New Business

a) Sustainable Jersey Small Grant Program – Ideas are needed for possible projects which would be eligible for grants. Easier recycling containers for public buildings and areas were discussed. The www.SustainableJersey.com website gives proven examples as inspiration for consideration.

b) FLOW area green fair – No participation is being planned. Wyckoff and Franklin Lakes have decided to postpone the Fair till a more suitable time. Michael DaSilva of the public reported that William Paterson Univ. is planning one for the spring. He will provide a list of vendors we could contact for a future fair. Michael Kozak suggested having a Green Fair under the auspices of the Oakland Public Events Committee to gain necessary funds.

c) CrossRoads March/ April – An article needs to be written about the Stewart Wood trail, NRI progress, recycling and the new Park. Gina offered to work on an article with Nancy.

5. **Committee Updates**

a) **Great Oak Park Update** – Lee Haymon and Mark Ostapczuk are attending planning meetings for the Park. Eric Kozak provided a GPS map of the property and trails for the committee to use. A gravel parking lot near Doty Road is being planned to give access to a trail. Progress is being made on getting the park open for the spring. There are discussions on name and uses of the park going on. A community vote is being taken on 3 possible names: Great Oak Park, Pleasureland, or Carmine Parete Memorial Park.

b) **Green Team Update** – Currently inactive, although potential points are being accrued by the creation of public parks, and work on the NRI.

c) **Recycling Update** – Michael reported that although recycling rates are acceptable, they could be improved. Especially public buildings, including schools, need to be encouraged to reach peak efficiency.

d) **Open Space Update** – The referendum for Open-space tax of .01 per \$100 of value was approved by Oakland voters for 10 years. This is subject to possible rate changes over that period. It was also approved to use open-space funds for flood buy-outs. 6 to 12 houses in the Roosevelt Blvd. floodway have submitted applications for buy-outs. Truman Soccer Field will be expanded once the houses have been taken down.

6) **Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Update**

a) **Current Projects** – Lee reported that applications for homes on River Road are being discussed as houses in the flood area apply to be raised above 100 year flood levels.

b) **Meeting Schedule** – Thursday, 11/14 and Tuesday, 11/12/13

7) **Budget Status** – A budget request for 2014 has been submitted. An increase of \$300 for miscellaneous funds was requested in case moneys were needed for a Green Fair.

8) **Close Meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 9PM (next meeting December 3, 7:30pm)
Minutes were submitted by secretary Jerri Angermueller