

## **Oakland Environmental Commission Reorganization & Meeting January 17, 2012**

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Lee Haymon. Members present were Lee, Mike Lynch, Nancy Krause, Mark Ostapczuk, Darren Ward and Al LoPilato. Council liaison Betsy Stagg was also present. Lee Haymon and Erich had received their 3-year reappointments from Mayor Schwager. Al LoPilato submitted his Citizen Leadership form at this meeting to request reappointment to a 2-year alternate position. The form will be filed with the Borough Clerk.

**Reorganization** – Nominations were taken for officers for 2012. Lee Haymon was elected Chairman; Nancy Krause was elected Vice Chairman. Jerri Angermueller was elected secretary, and Betsy Stagg will continue her appointment as liaison to the OEC.

### **New Business –**

1. **Projects for the new year** – Lee provided the following list of proposals for 2012.
  - a. Raymond Property Trails – Lee Haymon and Al LoPilato do intend to plot trails using GPS units for mapping out trail plans and completing a nature path with footbridge.
  - b. Heritage Hills open-space usage – Options will be provided for members to discuss.
  - c. Natural Resource Inventory – Lee would like the Commission to work on an up-to-date Natural Resource inventory for Oakland. Boy Scouts can also assist in collecting information.
  - d. Town Carnival – The Carnival is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>. The Commission would again like to participate by manning a booth with information on environmental issues.
  - e. Earth Day Project – Nancy would like to offer an educational project for April 22, 2012.
  - f. Tamarack tour – Darren Ward would like to give a walking tour of the Tamarack property
2. **New OEC Candidates** – A replacement is needed for alternate Rob Akovity who resigned.
3. **Raymond Property Update** – GPS units are needed for GIS maps to designate trails.
4. **Heritage Hills Update** – A feasibility study creates a list of possible uses for discussion. Mark Ostapczuk volunteered to start a feasibility study for criteria uses. Mike Lynch will assist.
5. **Green Acre Trail Grant** – Darren Ward plans to work on the application form and submit it to Betsy Stagg for council approval. ANJEC has a Sustainable land-use grant due 3/30/2012.
6. **Flood Erosion** – River erosion on Lakeshore Dr is being studied by the USDA and the NJDEP to find a resolution for the problem.

### **Old Business -**

1. **Green Team Update** – to be discussed
2. **Webpage & e-mail** – Mark submitted photos for the Boro website. Peter Foley has resigned as webmaster, so the site's future is uncertain. Lee wants to submit a piece on fracking.
3. **Recycling Update** – A reminder that electronic recycling is done curbside for residents. The Borough garbage contract is currently being negotiated. Single-stream recycling is good.
4. **Open-Space Update** – van Allen House could use open-space funding.

**Annual Report** – The secretary is working on the annual report and will circulate it for the next meeting.

**Planning board/Board of Adjustments Update** – The zoning adjustment to allow tree-farming on the Bi-County Long Hill Road property was memorialized.

**Budget Status** – Administrator and Council are working on the 2012 budget.

**Meeting Minutes Review** – Review of minutes was tabled to February meeting.

**Adjourn meeting** – Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.  
Minutes submitted by secretary Jerri Angermueller

# **Oakland Environmental Commission**

**February 7, 2012**

1. **Open Meeting** – Meeting was called to order by Lee Haymon at 7:35 PM. Members present were Erich Kamm, Michael Kozak, Nancy Krause, Michael Lynch, Mark Ostapczuk, Darren Ward and Al LoPilato. Councilwoman Betsy Stagg was also present.
2. **Introduction to Mayor** – Mayor Schwager arrived at 8 PM. Members introduced themselves. Lee presented the Commission's plans and past interests to her. She heard a request for a possible new member and for the support from the Mayor & Council for the ANJEC trails grant application due February 15<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor introduced the Life Trail grant program which supports outfitting senior fitness trails. Adaptability to Heritage Hills property as a future use was discussed.
3. **New Business**
  - a. **Natural Resource Inventory** – Nancy is studying an ANJEC grant application for funds to do a Natural Resource Inventory. Discussion involved division of the project into individual parts. The grant application allows for in-kind matching to include work done by Boro Public Works employees and volunteers such as Boy Scouts, Commission members, or the Garden Club. Lee Haymon also explained that most of the required maps can be found at on-line map sites from the State of NJ and other sources. Samples of NRI from nearby towns can also be acquired as guides. Nancy distributed a list of topics from Red Bank's NRI for members to choose from for their personal addition to the report. ANJEC also gives extensive guidance for such projects.
    - i. **Eagle Scout Participation** – Michael Kozak and Mark Ostapczuk agreed that a number of Boy Scouts are anxious to find Eagle Scout projects. Scouts could document wildlife, plant and bird species in various parts of the Borough.
  - b. **Tamarack Usage** – Councilwoman Stagg reported that Bergen County has other priorities before the Tamarack property. Darren Ward will plan a tour of the property for spring.
  - c. **Raymond Property Update** -
    - i. **Grant** – Darren Ward has completed the grant application form. An approval from the Mayor & Council for a matching portion of the grant is needed. Ms. Stagg explained how the match can be made from DPW and volunteer assistance on the site, as well as funds from previous grants. She explained to the Mayor that an approval would not have to cost any new current funds. The grant approval should come from the Council at the next meeting in time for the 2/15/12 deadline. Boy Scouts might work on footbridge to cross brook and wetlands area.
  - d. **Heritage Hills Update** – Betsy Stagg will contact John Szabo about any planning work that is already being done by Rutgers, so that work will not be duplicated needlessly.
    - i. **Feasibility Study** – Mark Ostapczuk brought samples of feasibility studies done by other towns for discussion. Public input is encouraged. The Jordan Creek Greenway can be used as an inspiration. Mr. Ostapczuk will bring a table of contents to the next meeting. Local groups can be invited to a common meeting or work session to contribute their input.
  - e. **Environmental Education** – Nancy will plan an event for the fall. For Earth Day the Shade Tree is planning its annual Arbor Day tree planting and appreciates the OEC's participation.
  - f. **New OEC Candidates** – A resume was submitted for consideration of replacement of Robert Akovity who has offered his resignation. The Commission would like to meet the applicant. A second applicant is interested in assisting with a Green Fair. Her application is for Green Team.

#### **4. Old Business**

**a. Green Team Update** –Bronze certification has been received from Sustainable Jersey. Green Team members are annual Mayoral appointments. Membership needs to be reestablished for continuation of activity. A Northwest Bergen County Environmental/ Shade tree Commission Group has been formed by Glen Rock to encourage Green Teams supporting each other. Oakland members are encouraged to attend, as M. Kozak has done in the past.

**b. Webpage and e-mail Status**– Webpage is awaiting appointment of a webmaster.

**c. Recycling Update** – The borough is working on Garbage collection contract negotiations. Percentage of recycling in Oakland is down slightly. This is due to large amounts of garbage removed following Hurricane Irene to a large extent. Recently acquired separation machinery simplifies separation of recyclables on a Bergen County-wide scale.

**d. Open Space Update** – Erich Kamm spoke of the grant from Bergen County Freeholders to purchase the Bi-County tract, which will expire soon and may need to be returned to the County. Oakland may, of course, reapply for new grants from the County in the future if a purchase plan develops. Bi-County's status as tree farm owners has just recently become final.

**5. Annual Report** – The secretary's annual report was reviewed, revised and accepted with revisions.

#### **6. Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Update**

**a. Current Projects** – Bi-County's application to get reduced farmland property tax status was approved. The review of Oakland's Master Plan Re-examination is continuing.

**b. Meeting Schedule** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month.

**7. Budget Status** – The Borough is currently discussing the 2012 budget.

**8. Meeting Minutes Review** – Minutes for December and January were reviewed, revised and accepted.

**9. Close Meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM. Minutes are submitted by Secretary Jerri Angermueller.

## **Oakland Environmental Commission**

### **March 6, 2012**

1. **Open Meeting** – Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairman Lee Haymon. Members present were Nancy Krause, Mike Lynch and Al LoPilato. Erich Kamm and Michael Kozak arrived later. Councilwoman Betsy Stagg attended the meeting. Mark Ostapczuk and Darren Warren were absent due to reported responsibilities.
2. **Open Meeting to Public-** Al LoPilato moved and Mike Lynch 2<sup>nd</sup> opening meeting to public
  - a. **Potential New Members** Gina Costa-Mayer had submitted her resume to be considered for appointment based on Mark Ostapczuk's referral. She introduced herself as a safety expert at Ramapo College with an active interest in Oakland environmental issues.
3. **Open Meeting to Other Commissions**
  - a. **Rec Commission Thoughts on Heritage Hills** – Mike Guadagnino expressed the thoughts of the Recreation Commission on possible passive recreation uses of the former Muller Park site. He displayed a map of the area. A Great Lawn area with bandshell was suggested for concerts, art shows and picnics. Other suggestions included a boat launch and hiking trails. Former owner, Marco family member offered to give a tour of the property for local commissioners. Oakland Sports association is interested in supporting these plans. Mike Guadagnino would like members of the OEC to work with Steve Salianni of the Rec Commission to write up a plan to submit to the Mayor & Council for their approval. Environmental Commission members voiced approval of proceeding with planning.
4. **New Business**
  - a. **Natural Resource Inventory Grant** – Nancy Krause presented her draft application to ANJEC for funds to complete an NRI of Oakland. She asked for input on the draft. She also presented 2 copies of Oakland Highlands NRI being submitted by Burgis Associates as commissioned by the Borough. One copy is from 2009, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2011. It needs to be explored if this report covers all of Oakland or just the preservation area. Nancy is awaiting an answer along with a cost estimate from Burgis representative Steve Lydon. Maser Associates did an ERI which covered Mahwah and Oakland's preservation area.
    - i. **Eagle Scout participation** – Michael Kozak and Nancy Krause will contact Scout troops to identify their interest in participation.
  - b. **Tamarack Usage** – Darren Ward was on a reported absence, so no update was given.
  - c. **Stewarts Woods Update** – No new information.
  - d. **Heritage Hills Update**
    - i. **Feasibility Study** – Mark Ostapczuk was on a reported absence, but he plans to work with the Oakland Rec Commission on uses for the vacant property.
  - e. **Earth Day Cleanup** – Shade Tree and OEM want to do a River clean-up in April.
  - f. **OEM River Cleanup** – Lee will inform commission members of the date for a spring Ramapo River clean-up. Dave Potash has invited the OEC to take part.
5. **Old Business**
  - a. **Green Team Update** – Michael Kozak will meet with the new mayor to discuss.
  - b. **Webpage and e-mail** - A webmaster has still not been appointed.
  - c. **Recycling Update** – M. Kozak reported that the Boro schools are not participating as well as they should. They need more co-mingled pails in accessible areas.
  - d. **Open Space Update** – No new information.

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

**a. Current Projects** – PSE&G will be contacting borough commissions with their plans to expand their pipeline.

**7. Budget Status** – Budget is being discussed and processed.

**8. Meeting Minutes Review** –Amendments were made to the February minutes. They were approved with amendments.

**9. Close Meeting** – Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM. Minutes are submitted by Secretary Jerri Angermueller.

**Oakland Environmental Commission**  
**April 3, 2012 meeting minutes**

1. **Open Meeting** -Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Chairman Lee Haymon. Members present were Nancy Krause, Mark Ostapczuk, Erich Kamm, Michael Kozak, Michael Lynch, Darren Ward and Al LoPilato.
2. **Open – to - Public** – The meeting was opened to the public to allow Dave Potash of Oakland Emergency Management to report on the upcoming Ramapo River clean-up, scheduled for 4/28/12 at 8:30 AM starting at the Timbers restaurant parking lot, and continuing till 1PM. A barbeque at the Yawpo Firehouse is planned at the end of the clean-up. Tyvek suits and nitrile gloves will be made available for all to protect from poison ivy and ticks, but it is also advised to bring one's personal gloves for further protection.
3. **New Business** –
  - a. **Natural Resources Inventory** – The grant application was submitted to ANJEC by Administrator Kunze after being approved by the Mayor& Council. If granted, work would be expected to start in July 2012. Nancy Krause and Michael Kozak will contact Boy Scout leaders for assistance
  - b. **Tamarack guided tour** – A tour guided by Darren Ward is scheduled for Sunday 4/29 afternoon. Members interested in taking part in the walk can meet in the Boro Hall parking lot at 12:30 PM and car- pool to the entrance near the top of Skyline Drive.
  - c. **Heritage Hills Update**
    1. **Site visit** – The Commission members will perform a clean-up of the Heritage Hills property on Saturday morning, 4/21/12 at 9 AM meeting in the parking lot of the Spruce St. bowling alley. Clear garbage bags will be provided for con-mingled items versus black garbage bags.
    2. **Feasibility Study** – Mark Ostapczuk met with the Recreation commission and councilman Visconti to discuss possibilities of having a bandshell with lawn area on the property. Points to consider include access to property including parking and possible emergency vehicle access. The Borough is applying for CDBG grants for adjoining areas with the Recreation Commission.
  - d. **Earth Day clean-up** – The Oakland Emergency Management group has invited Commission members, along with local residents, to take part in a Ramapo River clean-up on Saturday, 4/28/12, starting at 8:30 AM at the Timbers Restaurant in the parking lot.
  - e. **New member** – It was discussed if the applicant, Gina Mayer-Costa, should be chosen as the replacement for Rob Akovity who has asked to be released from his appointment as alternate member due to scheduling conflicts. Members present voted unanimously to request Gina's appointment by the Mayor. She has a background in sustainability. Mark Ostapczuk will inform her on how to proceed.
4. **Old Business** –
  - a. **Green Team update** - Mike Kozak will contact the Mayor and Borough Administrator about renewing appointments to the Green Team. Erich Kamm and Michael Kozak agree to request reappointment. The Mayor is initializing a Farmers' Market group in conjunction with Green Team.
  - b. **Recycling update** – Bids are being solicited for a new garbage contract through the middle of June. Options include variations on changes such as single-stream recycling, continuing alternate weeks of recyclables or some combination of those possibilities depending on cost factors.
  - c. **Webpage & e-mail** – Peter Foley has been reappointed as Webmaster.
  - d. **Open-space update** – Erich Kamm attended a meeting at the McFaul Nature Center. Open-space funds are still available from the Bergen County Trust Fund.
  - e. **Planning Board/Board of Adjustments** – The suit by the Fanale Family for building on their property east of Indian Hills High School has been decided. They can now submit building plans.
5. **Budget Status** – Budget is on schedule for approval.
6. **Meeting Minutes Review** - March minutes were approved with amendments.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM. Minutes submitted by Secretary Jerri Angermueller.

## **Oakland Environmental Commission**

### **May 1, 2012 meeting minutes**

The May meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by Chairman Lee Haymon. Members present were Nancy Krause, Michael Lynch, Mark Ostapczuk, Darren Ward and Erich Kamm. Councilwoman Betsy Stagg was also present.

#### **1. New Business –**

**a. Natural Resource Inventory** – Lee advised that work should begin on the NRI. Nancy can create a Table of Contents as a framework for areas to be covered. She will distribute a draft for discussion by e-mail. Participants can start photographing local flora and fauna, log species found and research which samples are native to Oakland, and which are invasive or endangered. Animal and bird tracks are also useful.

**b. Tamarack Usage** – New date was set for Darren's tour of Tamarack: Saturday 6/16 at 8:30 AM in Boro hall parking lot. That evening is the Oakland Carnival in the Rec. Fields.

**c. Stewart's Woods Update** – Erich Kamm will contact the Shade Tree Commission to visit the property and include their plans on promoting the nature trail in these woods.

**d. White Oak Park Update** – Mark Ostapczuk met with the Recreation Commission to discuss methods of implementing the renewal of the Muller's Park property. Utilities need to be marked out as plans for the Band Shell/ Great Lawn area are developed. Drainage and electric wires, access points and parking need to be investigated. Park name could be set as White Oak Park based on a large tree in the middle of the property. Fund-raising is started by the Recreation Comm. 1.5 hour clean-up was performed by Environmental Commission members on 4/21. May 19<sup>th</sup> is a YES clean-up which could be a continuation of the work.

**e. OEM River Clean-up** – Lee reported on clean-up. Three 30 cu. ft. dumpsters were filled on 3 sites along the Ramapo near Roosevelt Blvd., Lakeshore Dr. & River Rd. James Construction provided back hoes to transport large debris items to dumpsters. Approximate number of participants was 50 residents.

**f. New Member Status** – Betsy Stagg was asked to communicate to the Mayor the consensus of the Committee to appoint Gina Mayer-Costa to replace Rob Akovity as alternate Commission member. Councilwoman Stagg will speak with the Mayor.

**g. Bergen County Environmental Council Meeting** – Lee Haymon and Erich Kamm attended the county meeting 4/30/12. 38 - 40 area towns were represented. Lee spoke with commissioners from Mahwah and Wyckoff on possible cooperation on projects. Joel Flagler of Hackensack's Rutgers Agricultural Office extension described current invasive fungi and fly problems. He is available for consultation in the County Administrative Bldg on a steady basis. Hackensack Riverkeeper Bill Sheehan spoke on aging sewage/water drainage systems in the County as a subject of concern. United Water spoke on flooding vs. drought situations. Pervious asphalt is starting to be used as a solution to water run-off problems.

#### **2. Old Business –**

**a. Green Team Update** – Mayor Schwager introduced a resolution to restart the Green Team. Betsy Stagg and Pat Pignatelli were appointed. Mike Kozak and Erich Kamm are awaiting further word.

**b. Open-Space Update** – Betsy Stagg stated that no funds are being sought currently.

#### **3. Planning Board/Board of Adj. –**

**a.** Senior Housing plans for 277 Ramapo Valley Rd

**b.** Fanale Property is seeking to be rezoned for up to 5 middle-income 3 family houses.

#### **4. Budget - The Budget has been passed by the Mayor & Council.**

#### **5. Minutes of the April 2012 meeting were accepted with 1 correction.**

#### **6. Meeting adjourned 8:55 PM - Minutes are submitted by Secretary Jerri Angermueller.**

## Oakland Environmental Commission June 5, 2012

1. **Open Meeting** – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lee Haymon at 7:40 PM. Members attending were Nancy Krause, Mike Lynch, Erich Kamm, Darren Ward, and alternate Gina Mayer-Costa. Council liaison Betsy Stagg also attended.
2. **Meeting opened to Public** – Dorleen Klein of Oakland questioned the pesticide signs on the Recreation Fields. She has spoken to Mayor Schwager and Superintendent Marcucilli as to the composition and need for an herbicide on the Rec. Fields. She stated that recent health issues in her family have led her to study environmental conditions in town. She was told that an organic pesticide is applied to the fields to prevent crabgrass growth and maintain the use of the fields. Her own investigation of Cavalcade with Prodiamine indicated that the herbicide is not organic and can potentially lead to health problems. Commissioner Mike Lynch began researching the product and will continue the search. Erich Kamm will inquire with the Rutgers Cooperative extension at Bergen County offices in Hackensack as to their opinion on the pesticide.

Betsy Stagg will speak to Ray Fuller of the DPW about the product and its application to the fields. Ms. Klein asked that the necessity of chemicals in the Rec Field be evaluated by the Commission, especially since a new application is scheduled for this month.

The meeting was closed to the public as the discussion ended.
3. **New Business**
  - a. **Town Carnival** – The Carnival is June 14, 15, & 16, 5:00 – 10:00 & 4 – 11 PM Saturday.
    - i. **Staffing** – A schedule is being circulated where members can fill in the times when they will be available to help staff the OEC booth during the Carnival.
    - ii. **Handouts** – It will be determined who has the hand-outs from 2011 and what replacements are needed. The Bergen County Environ. Comm. and ANJEC offer many information forms.
    - iii. **Giveaways** – Water bottles and shopping bags were handed out in previous years and will hopefully be available to hand out this year.
    - iv. **Survey** – Lee will compose survey sheets on current local concerns and questions.
  - b. **Natural Resource Inventory** – Nancy Krause has contacted 3 companies in an effort to find one who will do the project for the ANJEC grant amount of \$8K. Company responses are being discussed at this time.
    - i. **Grant Update** – Nancy Krause is still waiting for responses to requests for quotes from 2 companies that do NRI's from which the OEC and Mayor & Council can decide who to use. One quote has been received from Kratzer, but it is above the ANJEC grant amount. Her bid needs trimming of areas covered, or the Council would need to increase the matching amount
  - c. **Tamarack Usage**
    - i. **Site tour** – Darren has agreed to lead a tour of sites Saturday 6/16 from Boro Hall parking lot at 8:30 AM gathering time.
  - d. **Stuart's Woods Update** –
    - i. **Meeting with Shade Commission** - Lee and Erich will contact the Shade Tree Commission. They are looking for suggestions from the OEC. Wetlands grasses would be appropriate plants.
  - e. **Great White Oak Park Update**
    - i. **Feasibility Study** – Mark Ostapczuk will be discussing possibilities with Rec. Commissioner Mike Guadagnino.



**4. Old Business**

**a. Green Team Update**

**i. New progress** –names of interested residents need to be presented to the Mayor for appointment. The OEC has e-mail addresses of residents who have expressed interested.

**b. Recycling Update** – not available

**c. Open Space Update** – Council liaison Stagg and Erich Kamm say that Bi-County property is still a consideration for Borough acquisition as an open space in the Borough if the owner is willing to negotiate.

**5. Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Update** – An alternate member is needed due to a resignation. Any interested member should e-mail their interest to the Mayor.

**a. Current Projects** – Fanale property off Mc Coy Road is starting to submit design plans for a road and houses to be built on the property. A permit is also being requested by Ben Perry for building on vacant land near Pool Hollow that is now accessible from Pierson Miller Dr. in Pompton Lakes.

**b. Meeting Schedule** – Second Tuesday and Thursday every month.

**6. Budget Status** – The budget has been approved for 2012. ANJEC membership dues have been paid.

**7. Meeting Minutes Review** – May 2012 Minutes were approved with 1 correction.

**8. Close Meeting** – meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Minutes are submitted by Sec. Jerri Angermueller.

**Oakland Environmental Commission**  
**September 4, 2012**  
**Meeting Minutes**

1. The Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairman Lee Haymon. Members in attendance were Nancy Krause, Michael Kozak, Mike Lynch, Erich Kamm, Mark Ostapczuk, and Darren Ward. Alternate Gina Mayer-Costa also attended.
2. **New Liaison** - Councilwoman Stagg had informed the Commission prior to the meeting that Councilman Pat Pignatelli will be our liaison for the remainder of 2012.
3. **New Business** –
  - A. **Natural Resource Inventory** – Approval of the proposal and matching funds are on the agenda for the 9/5/12 Borough Council meeting. As approval is expected, a kick-off meeting with ANJEC representatives and Ms. Kratzer was scheduled for Tuesday, 9/25/12 at 7:30 PM in Borough Hall Conference Room. All Commission members are invited. It will be an open public meeting. Future assistance from such town groups as the YES group, Boy and Girl Scouts and resident photographers will be actively pursued. IHHS Environmental club will be contacted through Angela Manzi who teaches AP biology and horticulture.
  - B. **Tamarack Property** – The recent tour given by Darren Ward highlighted areas where building rubble needs to be removed for safety's sake. Darren will research which property belongs to the Borough and which is now County property on tax maps. A volunteer bicycle group in Ringwood has created a 4 mile long "Red Trail" which could become connected to a biking trail through the Tamarack site if the area is safely accessible.
  - C. **Stewart's Woods** – No result on the grant application yet. Lee Haymon plans to share a map with Ed Clark and the Shade Tree Commission for common planning.
  - D. **Great White Oak Park feasibility study** – Mark presented a plan from Mike Guadagnino and Chris Visconti for possible uses of the property. The Rec. Commission would like to know if a DEP permit is required for re-milling of the asphalt parking surface which already exists on the land. Is a portable pedestrian bridge allowed to be put across the C-1 stream which runs through the property to prevent people walking through it? What access points are allowed to be used? The planning group will go before the M&C to ask for advice to proceed. Lee Haymon will contact Tina Wolf of the DEP to find out further information on limits of use of existing Park property.
4. **Old Business** –
  - A. **Green Team update** – Michael Kozak will talk to Administrator Kunze.
  - B. **Recycling update** – There has been positive feed-back on new single-stream recycling.
  - C. **Open-space** – Funds are being solicited for repairs to the Van Allen House roof.
5. **Planning board/Board of Adj.** – Lee attended a recent meeting as new OEC liaison member to the Planning Board. He described the planned project at Fanale's McCoy Rd. 40A property. New zoning allows for 21 individually designed homes as parcels are sold in 30K sq.ft.lots. 2 affordable housing lots will provide for 2 duplexes and 3 triplexes and 1 detention basin.  
New ordinances are being considered for uniform signage, downtown planning, such as bike lanes and racks, semi-permeable pavers, and solar panel requirements and restrictions.
6. **Budget Status** – Requests will be made for 2 Commission members to attend the ANJEC Congress in October. M. Kozak would like to be allowed to spend up to \$200 to attend the League of Municipalities Convention in November. The 2013 budget needs to be requested.
7. **Meeting Minutes review** – June and July minutes will be sent out again for approval.
8. **The Meeting was adjourned** - 9:15 PM. Minutes submitted by Jerri Angermueller – Sec'y.

## **Oakland Environmental Commission October 2, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

The October meeting of the Environmental Commission was opened at 7:35 PM by Chairman Lee Haymon. Members present were Nancy Krause, Michael Kozak, Al LoPilato, Mark Ostapczuk, Erich Kamm, and Gina Myer-Costa. Pat Pignatelli was attending as council liaison.

**A motion was made and passed to open to the public –**

Alex Myers introduced himself as a Ramapo College student studying Environmental Science. He has done projects in environmentally sensitive open-space areas as an Eagle Scout and would like to help in Commission projects. He was informed of the upcoming NRI report needing public input.

**The Meeting was closed to the public following discussion.**

### **1. New Business –**

**a. Natural Resource Inventory** – Kerry Miller of ANJEC and Debbie Kratzer met with OEC members at a public meeting on 9/25/12. Ms. Kratzer had explained that local Press Releases need to publicize the need for local input into the report. Nancy has contacted the Shade Tree Commission for input. She will be sending a letter to ‘Students for Environmental Protection and Conservation’ at IHHS to request the participation of high school students and teachers. Boy Scout leaders suggested that well-defined projects be submitted to troops so that leaders can advise Scouts on how to proceed. Photography projects are encouraged. It was suggested that the software DropBox could be used to share information that people generate. One DropBox account will be created by Gina Mayer-Costa and shared on-line at [Oaklandec@gmail.com](mailto:Oaklandec@gmail.com) so all participants can see each others’ submission while adding their own. Mike Kozak will assist.

The next meeting on 11/13 could be held in the Library to accommodate a larger group for the first public NRI participation meeting.

**b. Tamarack Property** – Darren Ward is in contact with a biking club in Ringwood that has created the Red-Trail through the woods and hills that reaches to Oakland. Previous efforts toward similar projects opened the possibility of conflicts between bikers and hikers. The NY/NJ Trail Conference in Mahwah encourages participation in trail projects. Art White would like to attend an OEC meeting to explain the trail proposals and work with Darren Ward & Al LoPilato.

**c. Stewart’s Woods update** – Lee Haymon presented a map of the property which he plans to e-mail to Ed Clark of the Shade Tree Commission for their suggestions on making the property usable by the public as an open-space or nature area. On Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9AM a trail-maintenance project was proposed at this site for cooperation between the OEC and an Eagle Scout. Rakes will be needed to clear a trail. Mike Kozak’s son will make a GPS unit available to mark out notable sites.

**d. ANJEC Congress** – Nancy and Jerri will be attending the annual conference in Edison. The theme this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

**e. Great White Oak Park update** – Mark Ostapczuk has been working with Michael Guadagnino and the Recreation Commission on plans for passive recreation in the property. They are looking for guidance on expanding walking paths through wetland areas where footbridges are needed. Michael Guadagnino plans a meeting with Oakland Police Department on emergency access to the property.

### **2. Old Business –**

**a. Green Team Update** – A kick-off meeting could be combined with the NRI public meeting on 11/13/12. Otherwise there has been no activity taking place.

**b. Recycling Update** – Commingled collection is up since single-stream pick-up started.

**c. Open-space Update** – The Borough should be encouraged by the OEC to apply for 2013 funds.

**3. Planning Board/ Board of Adjustments Update** – Solar Panel ordinance is being discussed.

**4. Budget Status** – ANJEC attendance fee was approved. 2013 budget requests are now due.

**5. Meeting Minutes Review** – Amendments were proposed for minutes for June, July and August.

**6. Close Meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

**7. Minutes were submitted by Jerri Angermueller – Secretary.**

## Oakland Environmental Commission

### November 13, 2012

**1.Open Meeting** – The meeting was called to order by Nancy Krause at 7:35 PM. Members present were Darren Ward, Mike Lynch, Al LoPilato, Erich Kamm. Mark Ostapczuk arrived at 8:20 due to a concurrent meeting. Alex Myers was present as a public member.

**2.Open to public - JORBA** – Mr. & Mrs. Art White from Jersey Off-Road Bicycle Association spoke about the efforts of their group to create biking trails on State Park property in Ringwood. There are 500 members statewide with 30 members in Ringwood. They maintain and advocate for trails and the study of trail science and sustainability. Trails are created from local materials without the use of vehicles. The owners of properties involved are always contacted for permission to create trails. NJ State offices are most supportive of their work. The Whites are still waiting for responses from many County and local offices to work on County Park or municipal property. Trail science helps counteract erosion in forest environments. Rattlesnakes & heavy usage are major concerns.

The Whites are also members of the NY/NJ Trail Conference to support the co-existence of hikers and bikers which both want access to forest trails safely. D.Ward & A.LoPilato could help plot trails.

**Rick Weiman, trustee** of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation & Audubon Society of Northern NJ, spoke about his group's participation in birding and endangered species documentations. The groups have naturalists who can contribute photos & studies of local wildlife species and lead bird-walks.

**3.Review Minutes from October 2, 2012 meeting** – Minutes were amended and approved.

#### **4.New Business**

**a. Natural Resource Inventory** – Nancy Krause contacted the Suburban News, Oakland TV and Indian Hills High School to advertise public participation in the NRI.

**i. Photos for document** – Darren Ward will photograph the river erosion near his home on Roosevelt Blvd. to document riverbank conditions. Local photographers were asked for photos.

**ii. Drop box entries** – Password is needed for access. Information is semi-public.

**b. Tamarack Usage - Bike/trail** – Discussed in public session. Erich Kamm reported that Bergen County Open-space Division Director Adam Stroble would entertain studying biking path proposals. Erich suggested submitting a mapped proposal to the County including GPS coordinates for access and sustainable trail work planning. Al LoPilato could provide GPS contour maps.

**c. Stuart's Woods Update - Saturday Dec. 1, 9AM trail-blazing** – Meet at Dogwood Hill School lower parking lot. A.LoPilato will do research on trail-blazing. M.Kozak will bring GPS unit.

**d. Great White Oak Park Update -**

The Recreation Commission is proceeding with their passive recreation park plans. Certain Rec. Commission members are familiar with trail-making procedures.

**e. Summary of ANJEC 39<sup>th</sup> Environmental Congress** – Tabled to December 4 meeting.

#### **5.Old Business**

**a. Green Team Update** – No new information

**b. Recycling Update** – No new report

**c. Open Space Update** – No new update.

#### **6.Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Update**

**a. Current Projects** – No new current projects. Lee Haymon will update upon return.

**7.Close Meeting** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

**8.Minutes submitted by Jerri Angermueller**

## **Oakland Environmental Commission**

### **Dec. 4, 2012 meeting minutes**

1. **Open Meeting** – The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairman Lee Haymon. Members present were Michael Kozak, Nancy Krause, Mike Lynch, Mark Ostapczuk, Erich Kamm and Darren Ward. Councilman Pignatelli attended. Al LoPilato is absent due to illness.
2. **Review November Minutes** – Corrections were made and the minutes approved.
3. **New Business** –
  - a. **Natural Resource Inventory** – Kratzer Environmental has not been in contact with Nancy since Debbie Kratzer reported that she was dealing with Hurricane Sandy damage. Alex Myer was asked to contact Ramapo College students who could help with the NRI. M. Kozak asked for specific duties to describe to Boy Scouts willing to help.
  - b. **Tamarack Usage** – Darren Ward is scheduling a site-walk with Art White for work on a trail proposal to the Bergen County Open-space Division. Darren Ward and Al LoPilato will work on this. GPS trail readings can be imported to a GIS contour map using quad technology.
  - c. **Stewart's Woods Update** –

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, OEC members performed a trail blazing throughout the morning, including clearing of the trails and some leveling according to a map that Lee Haymon brought along. Eric Kozak used a GPS marking device to make maps of the paths for current and future needs.
  - d. **Great White Oak Park Update** – Michael Guadagnino has a proposal he will be presenting to the Mayor & Council at the 12/19 meeting to describe plans for passive recreational uses such as a bandshell on a great lawn, a dog park, and a community garden. Boswell Engineering is helping with permit applications. A tree farm and walking trails are also being considered.
  - e. **ANJEC Webinar** and Congress– Nancy Krause will participate in a ‘Reducing Emissions’ info session. She spoke on the ANJEC Congress seminar on Effective Environmental Comm. Practices.
  - f. **G.I.S. Letter of Appreciation** – Lee proposed a letter for his colleague who has been contributing work on GIS maps for the Commission. Lee will approve a draft.
4. **Old Business** –
  - a. **Green Team Update** – Michael Kozak is looking for new volunteers. Pat Pignatelli offered that the Mayor should be advised to look for volunteers. He suggested inviting the new school superintendent to be involved in increasing sustainability. The Farmers’ Market and Public Events Committee could be involved in providing sustainability events, such as the Market.
  - b. **Recycling update** – Single-stream pick-up has increased total recycling pick-up amounts. Barrels in the recreation fields need better labeling as co-mingling has changed to paper, plastic & metal.
  - c. **Open-space update** – Erich Kamm suggested investigating purchasing easements from the Great White Oak Park to the Recreation Fields
5. **Planning Board/Board of Adjustments** – discussion of a Solar-panel ordinance was tabled due to a snow-storm on the night of a scheduled meeting which was cancelled.
6. **The meeting was adjourned** at 9:05 PM.

Minutes were submitted by Secretary Jerri Angermueller.