

Oakland Environmental Commission

June 2, 2009 Meeting

Chairman Lee Haymon called the June 2009 meeting of the Oakland Environmental Commission to order at 7:35 PM. Members present were Erich Kamm, Michael Kozak, Nancy Krause, Michael Lynch, and Darren Ward. Alternate members present were Robert Akovity and Al LoPilato. Council Liaison Betsy Stagg was present. Minutes of the May 2009 meeting were approved with corrections.

1. New Business

- a. **Trail Grant Status** – Ed Clark’s design for a hiking/biking trail around the Rec. fields was discussed. New tennis courts have made new plans necessary. Trail should go to the Ramapo River.
- b. **Green Team Status – Sustainable Jersey/Green Team Ordinance** was passed by the Mayor & Council. Pat Pignatelli & Betsy Stagg will be the council liaisons. This Commission can make recommendations for membership to the Green Team. Erich Kamm and Michael Kozak offered to be the EC members of the Green Team. All members voted yes for this recommendation to the Mayor. Member-at-large possibilities were discussed.
- c. **Sustainability Plan** – Robert Akovity offered to provide a spreadsheet for the feasibility study on earning 100 sustainable points. Michael Kozak will forward his copies to Robert.
- d. **Low Carbon Diet Teams** – Two meetings have been held so far. It was discussed if the Low-Carbon Diet book should be replaced with Earthkeepers, a book by the same author. The website has calculation tools for saving on carbon points. Nancy contacted Eugene, Recycling Coordinator, to see if books can be purchased through the Borough’s recycling grant. The use of Rain Barrels was discussed.
- e. **Town Fair Booth** – Our booth can be shared with the Shade Tree Commission and the Board of Health. The Fair lasts 3 evenings: Thursday, 7/23 and Friday, 7/24, 6 – 10 PM, Saturday, 7/25/09, 4 – 11 PM. The possibility of offering water testing advice at the booth was discussed. Michael Kozak has water-testing kits available.
 - i. **Bottles** – Al LoPilato has 100 reusable water bottles with company logo. Robert Akovity has designed a logo, which could be applied over the bottles with labels.
 - ii. **Bags** – Mark Ostapczuk has 200 re-useable shopping bags from Bergen County for distribution at the Fair. Bergen County has brochures available for the public.
 - iii. **Staffing** - Robert Akovity will be the contact person for scheduling members at the booth. Michael Kozak offered to be there Saturday.
- f. **OEM River Cleanup** – Mark Ostapczuk was present as a member of the First Aid Squad.

2. Old Business

- a. **Webpage and e-mail** – Secretary will keep up on the OaklandEC g-mail correspondence.
- b. **Recycling Update** – Michael Kozak has been speaking to many residents. Co-mingled recycling is on the increase. Michael introduced two useful websites: ewg.org & mastergardening.com for gaining information on other towns’ efforts to increase recycling of inorganic and organic waste.

- c. **Open Space Update** – Council liaison Betsy Stagg updated members on negotiations for development and wastewater management in the Highlands area. No development may cause a wastewater deficit. Water must be replenished, not pumped to another town to be treated in their sewage treatment plant. When ground water nitrate levels are high, the system needs more water. Then no new septic tanks and no out-of-town sewage is allowed, according to the DEP.
- d. **Heritage Hill tract** – The EC’s recommendation to purchase this property, which still contains the swimming pool system from the 1980’s, was reaffirmed by the Commission. The property is still for sale, but could be used by Borough residents for recreation and open-space purposes if purchased with Bergen County Green Acres funds. A petition for a town pool on this site could be offered to residents at the EC’s Town Fair table.

3. Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Update

- a. **Current Projects** – Borough Engineer Steve Lydon of Burgis Associates is working on a NJ Highlands Conformance Plan Report. He presents it periodically before the Board of Adjustments.
- b. **Meeting Schedule** – Planning Board 7/09/09, Board of Adjustments 7/14/09.
- c. **New plans** – No new plans are under discussion.

4. Budget Status – The Borough budget has been approved.

5. Close Meeting - 9:40 PM adjournment.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Jerri Angermueller