

The October meeting of the Oakland Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40 P.M. Tuesday 10/07/08 by Chairman Lee Haymon. Members present were: Nancy Krause, Erich Kamm, Mark Ostapczuk and Al LoPilato.

Budget Report – The Borough budget was passed. The Environmental Commission received the same funding as in 2007. The ANJEC membership has been paid for 2008. The total \$310 includes 7 regular members plus 2 alternates. Trees donated by the EC are being, or have been, paid for. Please submit any receipts for seminars or any other expenses which have been incurred for 2008 so that all reimbursements can be made. Water hardy trees were purchased for Dogwood School.

Planning Board/Board of Adjustments –

1. Ropper Oakland, LLC – Elm St. & Terhune Dr. plans are being discussed before the Board of Adjustments. The Environmental Commission has studied the plans for an 84 unit 3-4 story apartment complex, and submitted comments to the Board concerning environmental concerns: **A.** Request LEED Certified construction, at least to the Silver level. **B.** Request renewable energy aspects be considered. **C.** Recommend fast growing shade-trees be planted to reduce summer cooling requirements. **D.** Verify possibility or absence of wetlands on the site or vicinity. **E.** Provide an Environmental Phase I or Preliminary Assessment Report.

Lee reported that a local resident contacted him to express concern about plans for a pipe containing raw sewage that is to run across the Ramapo alongside the Railway into Pompton Lakes to service the Ropper development. The residents hope this commission will study the possible impact of this plan. The DEP allows river crossing. The pipe size is to be determined. The Zoning Board is to settle a matter of increased density for building plans, as compared to present master plan building restrictions on the site.

2. Avalon– McCoy Road. Plans were discussed. The idea of a low-density housing community on the site generally found approval, especially compared to previous high-density plans.

Old Business -

1. Trail Grants – The Borough Clerk will be asked if the annual applications were received. The Borough can match a grant with in-kind DPW work hours. Bergen County has Clean Communities grants. The GIS program needs an update for open-space properties. Oakland's Open-Space inventory is included in the Borough's Master Plan. Only a map grant is necessary.

2. ANJEC – Website shows grant availability. The DEP also has on-line grant applications.

3. Reusable Bags – Mark contacted ANJEC about applying for a grant to purchase and distribute re-usable bags using local groups or merchants. He found that the 2007 NJ Plastic Bag Recycling Act – Bill A4555 –to phase plastic bags out of large stores did not pass a House vote.

New Business –

1. Chamber of Commerce Green Building meeting has not yet taken place.

2. Nancy and Jerri gave reports on their sessions at the recent ANJEC conference.

3. Composting –Research is needed for developing a program to utilize composting as a method to reduce the solid-waste costs of the Borough.

4. Mark will contact the Borough webmaster to make sure our Commission membership is up-to-date on-line. He is also working on the next edition of the Oakland 'Crossroads' newsletter. If any Commission member would like to add an article, see Mark Ostapczuk.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:50. Minutes submitted by Jerri Angermueller - secretary