

Oakland Environmental Commission

January 15, 2013 meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. Members present were Nancy Krause, Vice chair, Darren Ward, Mark Ostapczuk, Al LoPilato and Gina Mayer-Costa. Council liaison Betsy Stagg was also present.
2. **Minutes** of December meeting were corrected and approved. The Annual report was tabled.
3. **NRI status** – Nancy reported that Debbie Kratzer has not yet been able to return to work on the report. A site tour of the Borough also needs to be completed with Ms. Kratzer. Nancy has downloaded a number of photos into drop-box and reports that it is ready for others to add to it. She asked Alex Myers to contact college students about participating. Gina M-C. suggested that the IHHS science teacher, Mr. Poalillo, be contacted about his bird list.
4. **Bicycle trail status** – Al LoPilato reported that Al White of Jersey Off-road Bicycle Assoc. was injured, so they have not been able to meet with him to view the Camp Tamarack site for possible trails sites. Al LoPilato will provide USGS maps for trail proposal planning.
5. **Stewart's Woods status** – A copy of the 2005 Passive Recreation grant application to the Bergen County Open-Space Trust Fund was available for review. The application was for \$50K, but \$40K was granted with a \$40K match by the Borough. The Trust Fund amount is still available for use on the site. The Borough has been providing matching funds through in-kind work by the DPW. Darren Ward helped submit a Recreational Trails Program grant to the NJDEP Green Acres Program for \$25K in February 2012. A discussion took place on possible uses for the Open-space trust funds. Gravel or wood chips could be used for trails throughout the property. Signs designating natural features of the property were suggested for a walking nature trail. Members will investigate various materials for signs and trail surfaces.
Mike Kozak will be asked to present bridge-making project to local Boy Scouts.
Betsy Stagg will speak to the DPW about providing chipping service for wood-chips on site. It was emphasized that all surfaces require maintenance.
6. **Great White Oak Park status** – Mark Ostapczuk reported that Michael Guadagnino will invite the public to a town-hall meeting on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 in Council Chambers at 8 PM to solicit recommendations for passive recreation uses of the former Muller's Park. A second meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2013. The Environmental Commission is invited to participate and offer advice on sensitive areas in the property, such as the C-1 streams which need to be protected. Discussion is expected on the proposed Great Lawn with Bandshell and possible dog park and skate park. Dot O'Connor of Hemlock St. has offered to donate a strip of riverfront property to the Borough to be used for a biking/hiking path.
7. **Old business** – Nancy spoke about her recent ANJEC webinar on idling. The webinar link was distributed on-line. An idling ban is hard to enforce. Various alternatives were set out.
In town bicycle usage was discussed. Bicycle racks would encourage residents to use their bikes to reach local businesses. A side-walk along Oak Street would help walkers & cyclists.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.
Minutes are submitted by Secretary Jerri Angermueller.