

Oakland Environmental Commission

February 5, 2013 meeting

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM. Members present were Lee Haymon, Nancy Krause, Mark Ostapczuk, Michael Lynch, Gina Mayer-Costa and Erich Kamm. Betsy Stagg attended.
2. Reorganization - Nominations for 2013 officers were made. Chairperson is Nancy Krause. Mark Ostapczuk was elected Vice Chairperson. Jerri Angermueller was elected secretary.
3. Chairperson Nancy Krause moved for amendments to January meeting minutes. Amendments were tabled until certain facts can be verified.

4. New Business

- a. **Natural Resource Inventory** – Debbie Kratzer has advised that she would like to display maps to the public at the March 5 OEC meeting. The lower level of the Library has been booked for the open meeting from 7 to 8 PM. Mr. Poalillo, IHHS science teacher, has provided a list of birds which can be found locally. A “Friends-of-the-Environmental-Commission” group could be formed to connect people working on the NRI. The public will be informed.
- b. **Tamarack Usage** – Bike Trail – No activity.
- c. **Stewart’s Woods Update** – Alex Myers presented the start of an NRI for Stewart’s Woods which will be continued. The Shade Tree Commission will be contacted for the possibility of planting oak trees across the front of the property. Woodchips for trails was discussed. A date will be set in March for spreading of woodchips by Commission members & friends.
- d. **Interpretive signs** – Nancy Krause investigated prices for permanent signs along the paths of Stewart’s Woods. She will contact Michael Kozak for GPS coordinates of the trail. The information will be used in a description of the use of trail grant monies.
- e. **Great Oak Park Update** – Mark Ostapczuk reported on the progress of the Recreation Committee plans for the Park. Michael Guadagnino inquired of the Commission if a temporary stream crossing bridge could be installed. Betsy Stagg advised that the NJDEP generally rejects stream crossing permits over C-1 streams, even temporarily. The Rec. Commission will continue to look into parking and access possibilities, especially for fire and emergencies. A traffic flow study for larger events could help. Lee will speak with the Planning board about such a study. Presently no large events are planned for the property. The next public presentation is planned for 2/26/13 at 8 PM in the Borough Courtroom.

5. Old Business

- a. Green Team Update – Appointments need to be made.
- b. Recycling update – The League of Municipalities website njlm.org has articles on recycling
- c. Open-Space update – Erich Kamm spoke about the open-space tax process historically. He expressed that a County-wide open-space tax component of 1/2 cent/\$100 value would provide a good source of open-space funding.

6. Planning Board/ Board of Adjustments –

- a. Solar Ordinance – The Environmental Commission will write a statement encouraging proper use of Solar Panels. Trees should not be cut in favor of a commercial solar farm. Car ports with solar panels and other energy saving uses should be encouraged.
- b. Safe Streets – Bicycle lanes and other safety factors for bicyclists are being discussed.
- c. Meeting Schedule – Next Planning Board meeting is 2/14/13.

7. **Budget Status** – Budget is being worked on. Nancy requested payment of NJ Conservation Rally registration for March 9, 2013 at NJ.I.T in Newark. Pre-approval will be applied for.
8. **Meeting was adjourned** at 9:25 PM. Minutes submitted by Jerri Angermueller, Secretary