

Oakland Environmental Commission

May 7, 2013

1. **Meeting called to order** 7:45 PM by Chair Nancy Krause. Members present were Lee Haymon, Erich Kamm and Gina Mayer-Costa. Michael Kozak arrived at 8PM. Betsy Stagg arrived later. Mike Lynch, Mark Ostapczuk, Darren Ward and Al LoPilato had excused absences.
2. **Meeting Open to the Public** – 2 residents introduced themselves: Simon Burgess proposed that sun-shade materials be applied to windows of public buildings. Matthew Shook offered to assist with the NRI, especially with wildlife counts and designation of various habitats within the Borough.
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **Earth Day Project** – 9 Environmental Commission, family members and friends met on April 20 for a clean-up of Great Oak Park. Oakland Emergency Management members were performing a lake clean-up, and provided transportation onto the property for OEC also. Bags of refuse were left for pick-up by the DPW along paths which are passable by truck. Many dumped items as well as items washed in by flooding were removed and were to be disposed of.
 - b. **Stewart's Woods Update**
 - i. Curb-side Oak Trees – The Shade Tree Commission is working with the Borough to mark trees for removal where oak and pine trees are being provided for planting at native plants.
 - ii. Eagle Scout project progress report – A project is being submitted for approval. 1 candidate is submitting a plan to create the nature trail with grant funds for information stands and benches. A 2nd candidate wants to create a wetlands-crossing footbridge for the brook area. Mayor & Council must approve these along with the Boy Scout Council as the property is public.
 - c. **NRI** – Completion date has been extended to October due to personal circumstances.
 - i. Map Details – Ms. Kratzer has been updating the maps with advice from commissioners.
 - ii. List of birds and other wildlife – Dan Poalillo of IHHS provided a list of 130 bird species he has sited in Oakland. Resident Matthew Shook offered to create lists of mammals in varied quadrant areas of the Borough. As Palisades Interstate Park Project Manager he is familiar with habitats.
 - iii. Pinnacle property – A nature inventory was done by Amy Green for planning purposes years ago. The Planning Board should have a copy. Joel Flagler at Rutgers Bergen County Extension has lists of local plant species which should be investigated locally for current plant life inventories.
 - d. **Great Oak Park Update** – The Borough has completed a Phase I report on environmental concerns of the property. A Phase II report is currently being worked on.
 - i. Plans for Use - The Recreation Commission is advancing with plans for the Great Oak Park. A proposal will be presented to the Mayor & Council soon. Erich suggested that a constraint map be developed to prevent unpermitted activities such as a dog run being created within the limits of the C-1 stream. A permit matrix would let the Commission know what permits they need to apply for before they start creating areas which will later be disallowed. Mike Guadagnino has stated that funds are available to pay for an engineering report to designate placement of allowable activities.
 - e. **Tamarack Bike Trail Progress** – Darren Ward will be contacted for progress.
 - f. **Highlands Conformance** – Councilwoman Stagg said compliance will be voted on at May 24th Mayor & Council meeting.
 4. **New Business**
 - a. **YES clean up May 11 – 8:30-12** The OEC can take part in the clean-up at Great Oak Park as part of the town-wide clean-up. Members can start at Valley Middle School at 8:30AM or 9AM at Doty Road entrance to the park. Gloves and boots are encouraged.

b. Town Carnival June 26 - 29 – Gina Mayer-Costa brought a schedule for Commission members to sign up for time slots at the booth Wednesday – Friday 5PM – 9PM, Saturday 4 – 10 PM. She will be circulating this electronically to try and get all 4 days covered. Themes to cover include recycling, drinking water quality vs. rain-water usage, and preservation of Oakland's historic buildings. An animal track recognition game is available for use. Bags and hand-outs are available.

5. Committee Updates

- a. Green Team Update – No Report. NRI and Farmers' Market provide potential Sustainable Jersey points.
- b. Recycling Update – No new recycling figures available.
- c. Open Space Update – Erich Kamm spoke about the County grant for the Pinnacle property off Long Hill Road. The County withdrew the grant as it is not being used for open-space purchase and other projects need funding. The Pinnacle Company is not currently willing to sell the property.

6. Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Update

- a. Current Projects – Solar panel ordinance will be voted on Thursday.
- b. Meeting Schedule – Lee Haymon will continue to attend meetings.

7. **Budget Status** – The Borough budget has been passed. ANJEC dues have been paid. Shirts could be requisitioned. Michael Kozak has requested member shirt approval by administrator. \$260 available.

8. **Close Meeting** – Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM. (Next meeting June 4, 7:30PM) Minutes submitted by Secretary Jerri Angermueller.