

BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 7, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

APPROVED

The Bedminster Township Environmental Commission held their regular meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 commencing at 7:03 p.m. in the Township Municipal Building, Main Meeting Room, One Miller Lane, Bedminster, NJ. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Chairman Jeffrey Leonard, Robbie Lert, George Rodelius, Renee Mareski, Donald MacNab, Jane Martin, and R. Colin Hickey.

Commissioner Stappenbeck was absent, excused.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Recognition of a quorum was followed by a reading by Chairman Jeffrey Leonard of the Open Public meetings Act as required by law.

Adequate notice of this meeting of the Bedminster Township Environmental Commission was sent to the Courier-News, Somerville; Bernardsville News, Bernardsville and to all subscribers and posted at the Township Municipal Building on January 8, 2015.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

September 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Mareski, seconded by Commissioner Hickey. All in favor.

WELCOME and introduction of Commissioner Adam Yellin, subject to formal swearing in which had been scheduled but delayed.

CORRESPONDENCE: No actionable correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS:

Scheduled guest Kelly Vanasse of Back to Nature on Valley Road, 908-350-7506 gave a presentation on their Holiday Tree Giveaway Program established post Sandy. Back to Nature is visiting local townships to engage participation. 2014's program yielded 2500 gifted trees to participants. The cycle time frame for 2015 is November 27 through December 24. The program is simple: Receive a tree – Plant the tree. Discussion followed on how this program could work for Bedminster and Vice Chair Lert asked whether it would be consistent with Bedminster's position of not promoting an otherwise for-profit business as there are competing for profit businesses of the same like and kind. Chairman Leonard said he would follow up on all with township administration and report the findings.

Chairman Leonard redistributed copies the Ordinance Establishing Bedminster's Environmental Commission and requested Commissioners to read the italicized portions and think of ways to contribute. He said he would be contacting various other township EC Chairs for discussion of what their EC's do.

Vice Chair Lert, who is also Chair of Green Team presented an idea from GREEN TEAM for the EC to pursue for Community Outreach.

IDEA: School Field Trip: Walk a portion of the Hike and Bike. Portion TBD.

Give participating students maps. Explain history of and points and items of interest.

At completion, give each participant a green lanyard with a medal: "Official Hiker – Bedminster Hike and Bike." The school sits on the Hike and Bike so no bus cost incurred. Her suggestion age group of i.e. 3rd

graders was just for example of an age group that this might be best suited to. Could be fun. Engages the students which engage the parents, which help them all learn the Town and this is what creates Community.

The idea received enthusiastic response and Commissioner Hickey contributed to the brief discussion that followed. Commissioner Hickey advised that the school has a science club for grades 2nd through 6th, and as he also knows the applicable teachers volunteered to follow up to pursue this.

Commissioner Rodelius suggested the Commission support with funding, a Rapid Forest Health Assessment that would aid the Township Committee in formulating the deer management program. Commissioner Hickey verified there were ample remaining funds in the Environmental Commission's 2015 budget. Assessment performed and invoice for, by same expert was presented by Commissioner Rodelius for review.

Resolution:

On a motion made by Commissioner Rodelius, seconded by Commissioner Martin, we request to engage the services of Michael Van Clef, PhD. to do a Rapid Forest Assessment which service fee is not to exceed \$500.

Roll call vote:

Chairman Leonard: Aye

Vice Chair Lert: Aye

Commissioner Rodelius: Aye

Commissioner Mareski: Aye

Commissioner MacNab: Aye

Commissioner Martin: Aye

Commissioner Hickey: Aye

All in favor.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Martin stated she felt strongly about there not being any Environmental Commission Presence at FallFest and regarded this as a missed opportunity. Vice Chair Lert and others concurred. Commissioner Martin has already begun formulating ideas for FallFest 2016 including a possible budget line commitment request for Commissioners to wear identifying Tee Shirts so attendees could easily identify Commissioners throughout the day's event for comments and questions. Commissioner Martin will lead the EC 2016 FallFest presence.

Commissioner Hickey will monitor the EC budget for 2016, as he has for 2015.

Vice Chair Lert distributed a list of "Suggested Native Trees and Shrubs for Planting in Somerset County, N"J prepared by Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants. This was for quick reference purposes only.

Vice Chair Lert distributed a Copy of Roberts Rules "Recusal Defined." This was for informational purposes only as the topic has never arisen.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:33 pm on motion made by Commissioner MacNab and seconded by Commissioner Martin. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Lert
Vice Chair

