

2013	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV
M. Herzberg, Chair	P									
D. Rasmussen, Liaison	P									
A. Dohl	P									
J. Schaffer	P									
D. Hirsch, Planning Bd.	P									
T. Rudel	P									
B. Weeks	P									
B. Strom	P									

Key: P=Present, A=Absent, Gray Box= Minutes Assigned/Taken

January 2013 Reorganization Meeting

Dorothy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Brian and Mark were reappointed to the commission and Dan was reappointed our liaison from the Planning Board. Mark was then subsequently reelected chairperson.

We were joined by Elyse Foladare - Watershed Ambassador with the NJDEP. (wsamb@raritanbasin.org) Elyse discussed her work as Watershed Ambassador and possible ways she could interact with us.

Minutes of previous meeting: Approved with minor corrections. Angela sent changes by email to Beth. Brian clarified that only a portion of the back of the Gulton site may be in the flood plain. Dan clarified that he spoke with the zoning officer about the dumping by the Honda dealer.

A schedule for taking minutes was agreed to, see schedule above. Approved minutes are to be forwarded to the borough clerk directly (kharris@metuchen.com)

Correspondence:

- a) NJDEP Bulletin - bulletin discussing land use permits for the PSE&G right of way. A mailing concerning same was received from PSE&G.
- b) Received an invitation through ANJEC to a meeting concerning the Rutgers Sustainable Raritan River Initiative gathering at the Bloustein center, January 30, 2013 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Each town was invited to send the mayor, another representative of the town and a member of the environmental commission to the meeting. Dorothy stated that she would attend, Angela volunteered also. Will check on the mayor's availability.

Borough Reorganization Meeting - Dorothy reported on the Borough Reorganization meeting.

- The greenway extension (in both directions) was highlighted in the mayor's remarks.
- Redevelopment of the Oakite, Gulton, and Cryans sites were discussed.
- The 1/22/13 council meeting will include a presentation about the parking deck at 7:30
- A public meeting will be held to discuss pedestrian safety on 2/26/13
- Jay Muldoon was elected the new council president.

Edgar Woods - The walk was conducted on 12/15/2012. Stormwater flow is creating erosion. A new catch basin and recurbing would be expensive. The possibility of a rain garden was discussed. A cleanup of the site needs to be undertaken, as well as invasives removal. Discussion ensued about putting Elyse in touch with Mrs. Graziano, getting help from Rutgers (foresters/tree experts), the possibility of grant monies for replanting, etc. Property ownership needs to be clarified, is it Borough or Board of Ed property?

Planning Board - meets tomorrow. The Montessori school wished to expand and waive parking requirements.

Dismal Swamp/Greenway - Dorothy met with Bob Speigel to discuss the Dismal Swamp Commission. The commission will hold its next meeting at Metuchen Borough Hall on 2/5/13. Dorothy and Bob discussed the 3 towns thoughts concerning developing the swamp. Metuchen embraces the recreational opportunities, South Plainfield would like more truck routes and Edison is more neutral. Bob told Dorothy that there are funding opportunities thru the Edison Wetlands Association and that grants can be applied for. Brian has begun a grant application that would include mapping of the property lines as we applied for in the Sustainable New Jersey grant.

Question as to if any wetland delineation was/is to be done as part of the Gulton redevelopment.

Beth talked to Nick Tufaro about Trial Head Park. Nothing new to report from the county.

The Greenway is officially closed at the bridge construction on Lake Ave.

Brian suggested trees at the back line of Trailhead park as an interim measure.

High School - Additional tree requested would need to be a donation.

Charles Field/Cemetery - Fox and Foxx will be providing plantings as part of the approval for the new houses they will be building. Plantings would need attention - watering, etc.

Stormwater ordinances - Beth got model from NJDEP, needs further review. Dan to discuss with Cathy Elliott.

Bike/Walk Metuchen - Joe attended their meeting, a core of about a dozen people, 20 - 30 total membership. Goals include education of riders, as well as car drivers, development of bike routes, tie in with Complete Streets.

Next meeting: Wednesday February 20th at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM – Respectfully Submitted by Angela Dohl