

May 21, 2014	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV
M. Herzberg, Chair	P	P	A	A	P					
D. Rasmussen, Liaison	P	P	P	P	P					
A. Dohl	P	P	A	P	A					
J. Schaffer	P	P	A	P	P					
B. Weeks	P	P	P	A	P					
B. Strom	P	P	P	P	P					
D. Hirsch, Planning Bd.	P	A	A	A	P					
S. Burke			P	P	P					

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

Wed., May 21, 2014

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes of April meeting

The minutes were distributed, and no comments were received.

Correspondence

- Notice received of a public meeting of NJ Together to hear and comment on draft recommendations on the Middlesex Greenway. To be held at the Herbert Hoover Middle School in Edison, Monday June 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend and comment.
- Two issues of NJDEP Bulletin received, but no issues related to Metuchen.

Dismal Swamp

- Edison Wetlands Grant: Meeting focused on a presentation by and discussion with our guest John Wiley. John explained the background of the Dismal Swamp Commission and mapping done for Edison Wetlands Association by Princeton Hydro consultants. EWA owns the data, so it is available for use in other mapping projects authorized by EWA. Discussion of possible mapping parameters and formats. Each municipality with a portion of the Swamp is responsible for setting the boundaries. The process should be open with input from any interested resident. John noted that the Borough intended to preserve some properties near the Swamp with conservation easements; these can be obtained from Borough Clerk. Commission will explore mapping options further.

- Eagle Scout Project – Nikolai Krebs has completed building a walking trail on the old RR embankment. Attendees had no objection to his proposed name for the Trail, “opalanie,” meaning "eagle" in Lenni Lenape. Brian will so advise Nikolai.

Nikolai will plan an opening ceremony and advise with the date, time and place.

Edgar Woods

- We did not receive the grant to restore the woods. Thanks to Beth for preparing the application on short notice. Discussion of the need for a comprehensive restoration plan. Beth and Judy Graziano will meet and discuss ideas, and may involve other experts in habitat restoration. Possible application to U.S. Forest Service for an urban forestry grant.

Planning Board

- Dan announced a special public meeting on Wed. July 16 to discuss the parking garage that will be the first step in the redevelopment of the Pearl Street parking lot. The Environmental Commission may attend and ask questions.

Sustainable Jersey

- Discussion of setting up a joint committee of the Environmental and Shade Tree Commissions to revive the Borough's application for Bronze status. The committee must submit a list of planned projects by June 8 and submit a report on their completion by Nov. 23.

Earth Day

- The Earth Day event, on April 19th at the Senior Center, was very popular. Over 300 tree saplings (2-4 ft. height) of several species were distributed.
- Dorothy discussed hoping to start a tree farm (possibly near the tennis courts along Oakland Ave.) to store and care for trees that could be used to replace street trees and other public areas. The tree farm would start with the trees that were not taken by residents on Earth Day. The water truck that the Borough purchased at Dorothy's prompting would come in handy for this.

Recycling

- No news.

Open space inventory

- No news.

Greenway

- No news.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be June 18, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM