

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

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

## February 2014

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

### Minutes of January meeting:

1. Mark gave Angela the info to fill in the blanks.
2. On the last page, John Wiley is the attorney for the swamp commission, not on the commission.
3. On the last page, recycling electronics – the problem is small items not accepted and the fact that you have to bring things to the recycling center.

### Correspondence

1. Nothing came in the mail
2. NJDEP bulletin – 2 issues 1/22 and 2/5, nothing for Metuchen
3. ANJEC - sent information for communities to push NJDEP to stop dropping the ball for funds from the Federal Highway administration to fund recreational trails in NJ. Apparently NJDEP hasn't followed thru on this due to work on Hurricane Sandy relief. Need to write a letter to NJDEP to ask them to reinstate the program that has been in limbo, describing how we would use it.

### Open space inventory

1. Walk the parks date??? Sat 3/22 or 3/29 possible dates

### Greenway

1. Freeholder Charlie Tumaro supportive of greenway extension.
2. NJ Together Grant – initial site walk was 12/31, kick off meeting was 2/11 boro hall, midday. Mark circulated summary of project brief. Alison Inserro involved in project, wrote grant application.
3. On March 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a public outreach session at the senior center from 5:00 – 7:30 to publicize the NJTogether grant.
4. Extension –
  - a. The extension should bridge Middlesex Ave. at Trailhead Park for safe pedestrian crossing of this busy road and to facilitate integrating the Greenway into redevelopment area redesign. Discussion concerning whether PSE&G owns the embankments, would a right of way be needed, is there a buried pipeline, what about overhead lines?
  - b. Greenway access to sports complex?

## Dismal Swamp

1. Eagle Scout Project – Nikolai made changes to the project that we recommended and showed to Brian. Brian told him to move forward with Fred Hall. Part of his project should be coming to us and giving an update, etc.
2. When Nikolai has a day to begin the work, we should contact State Senator Peter Barnes as he has expressed an interest in joining in one of the kayak trips into the swamp.
3. The Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall has abandoned its proposal to develop land in the swamp for a new building. The county is buying that land and since they're buying it they have to survey it. They also will need to survey the Gulton land they are buying. We won't have to use the EWA grant money to cover those areas.
4. The new Edison mayor, Thomas Lankey, has expressed support for the Dismal Swamp preservation area.
5. Middlesex County Freeholder Charlie Tumaro is supportive of the greenway extension and the county's involvement in Dismal Swamp preservation efforts.
6. Edison Wetlands Grant – meeting hasn't happened yet due to weather related issues and coordination. Discussion ensued concerning the small number of parcels with currently unidentified owners that will remain once the county buys the portion of the Gulton property and the site that the Kingdom Hall had hoped to move to.
  - a. Still need to move ahead with the GIS, mapping, etc. gathering other natural resource data layers and building interactive web site. If the timeline is such that it is years until the county completes purchase, then we can't really wait for the surveying, etc.

## EARTH DAY

1. Dan sent note to Dorothy – outreach to religious groups who do community service, serve the earth type program, Neve Shalom has a group that does this kind of thing. Could use other groups for park clean ups if needed.
2. Rain barrel programs for earth day – Beth to look into how the program works, how many people you need, how much it costs.

## Recycling

1. Nothing new

## Other

1. Middlesex County Mosquito Commission – Mark talked to John Krantz executive director for an early morning get together, next week, suggest Tuesday 2/25 7:30 am.
2. ANJEC \$1500 grant – Could we do a rain garden at Edgar? Planning it out ahead of time, buying materials, Beth will talk with Judy, school/BOE amenable to this? Beth to contact Rutgers about a plan for the garden/possible costs, etc.

## New business

1. None

Still need another member for commission.

**Next meeting**

1. Wednesday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Mark will not be present. May need to reschedule April meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Angela Dohl