

April 14, 2009 7:30PM Village Hall

Attendees: Tom Riordan, Walter Clark, Larry Aronson, Jotham Bailey Sarah Jane Jelin, Howard Levison and Michael Miller; Alicia Mayer observed (Tom chaired the meeting in Janine's absence)

The minutes of the March 10, 2009 meeting were approved.

Reports and Discussions:

CLEAN AND GREEN

Carole Newman, Executive Director of Main Street South Orange presented a new initiative "Clean and Green" and asked for our input and suggestions. The initiative, which is in the formative stages started in response to complaints that the downtown is dirty (despite the fact that the DPW advises that they constantly clean up downtown) In addressing the problem, she hopes to use the services of a Seton Hall student who offered to help make the downtown green.

Howard said all businesses are obligated to re-cycle and we discussed the problems of enforcement i.e. business either don't know or don't abide; he advised that enforcement is coming and businesses are going to be required to comply; Carol should let them know this fact.

Carole advised that last year the DPW received \$17,000 for litter abatement and related projects from the NJ Clean Communities Program. It is not clear where the money is or if it has been spent, but the DPW is willing to let Carol at some of it. Up to \$500. can be used for any one project, including education. Carol's ideas:, a banner on the train trestle, a poster contest in the schools with prizes, an anti-idling YouTube video contest and a brochure for businesses to inform and help them comply. As many of her ideas dovetail with ours, we should stay in touch and coordinate.

Her contact info is: director@mainstreetsouthorange.org 973. 763-6899

Jotham proposed a travelling canopy, that bears a permanent environmental logo that could be used and adapted for a variety of different environmental projects like composting one week, anti-idling the next, bottle campaign, river clean-up etc. The concept would be for the canopy to be stored possibly at Village Hall and be transported to schools, the farmers market etc. Jotham is going to pursue this.

SUSTAINABLE NJ

Walter advised that we have registered SO with Sustainable NJ and now the real work begins. This program by the Mayor's Counsel on Green Futures is to get communities thinking about sustainability.

Once registered a community forms a Green Team, which Walter is presently doing, to work towards fulfilling the stated criteria or get the boxes checked to become certified.

There are 10-25 grants totaling \$250, 000 available. Two projects grants presently being worked on are: (1) a bicycle and scooter shelter and (2) a bio-diesel storage facility. The grant proposals are due May 9, but in order to get them written they must be submitted to our grant writer (I didn't get the name) in the next few days.

COMPOSTER SALES

Jotham reported that for now he is not ordering more composters and that he would renew efforts in the fall. Further he reported that the DPW is not responding to request for composters; Howard asked Jotham to provide copies of any emails to the DPW that went unanswered and he would get it resolved.

ETHICAL CULTURE PRESENTATION

Barry is doing a global warming presentation-on April 19th and it would be great for anyone to attend.

PLANNING BOARD

Michael advised that Janine made a presentation to the planning board on the role of the EC; it included the history, objective and accomplishments. She is also making a presentation to the Board of Trustees

The planning board agreed that the EC will be provided with all plans and proposed ordinances, as well as slope and riparian easements for our review and input.

BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Sarah met with the CHS Environmental Club. Next week on Earth Day in homeroom the students will distribute a questionnaire inquiring about the use of fountains i.e. do they use them, which ones, would they use if they worked etc. Also the Club will do an audit of the working fountains. They would love to sell logo plastic or stainless bottles, but need the upfront costs; on Earth Day or soon after they want to collect and display all the plastic bottles used in a day.

Sharon Daur, adviser is looking for a project for her AP Environmental students once they finish the AP exam in early May. Tom suggested that they create a plan and write grants to buy bottles and install filters; he said

we should think outside the fountain; possibly water dispensers, where bottles could be re-filled would better suit their lifestyle. A preliminary energy audit of the building is another idea. Sarah will stay in touch with the Club's progress.

Sarah also met with Adam Loehner the director of Seton Hall Community Relations. SH is already pretty green; projects range from changes in food services practices to energy consumption contests in dorms. He was receptive to the bottle campaign and would speak with the Ecology Club, but as school is almost over, nothing real will happen until the fall. Top

ANTI-IDLING

Walter met with the Chief of Police, who was interested in the effort; but didn't have the manpower to devote to enforcement; talked about targeting schools in the fall and Walter suggested getting a grant for police over-time

ANNUAL RAHWAY RIVER CLEAN-UP

Walter reported that the clean-up is this Saturday at 10:00 to bring waterproof boots and meet behind Middle School (next to Duck Pond.) This year they will inventory big stuff removed from the river.

SOUTH ORANGE BROCHURE

Tom shared the rough mock-up prepared by Aretas and posed some question: Do we want to produce it? Who will get it and what should it include? We agreed that it would be worthwhile, especially for new residents and real estate brokers to portray SO as a green community. Michael suggested reaching out to RE brokers for input into content and possibly financial support. Larry agreed to revise the mock-up and get involved

NEW BUSINESS

Larry said we should have a list serve of people interested in environmental issues so that we could disseminate information easily. Howard advised that the village is developing a C3 Alert system (reverse 911) that will give residents ways to opt in and we could have an environmental opt-in

Geese—Howard is looking for ideas to combat the geese poop problem that is contaminating our parks. Walter will investigate how other communities are dealing with the problem.

Meeting adjourned 9:15