

Minutes of Environmental Commission Meeting—May 12, 2009

Present: Tom Riordan, Walter Clark, Jotham Bailey, Larry Aronson, Sarah Jane Jelin, Michael Miller, Barry Zack, James McGowan and Dawn Williams (Tom chaired the meeting in Janine's absence)

Minutes of the March 10 meeting were approved with Janine's March 13 ANJEC letter attached

Reports and Discussion:

BOTTLE CAMPAIGN (still pondering a catchier name)

Sarah Jane reported

- The CHS Environmental Club is exploring grants to fund filtered water. On Earth Day they completed the first step by taking a survey in all science classes to ascertain if students used the fountains, (if they even could find one) and if they would use them if the water was filtered. After tabulating the results, they intend to present them to the authorities in conjunction with a survey of the working fountains.
- They hope to get the chemistry classes to do an analysis of the water coming out of the pipes. All of this information will be used in their grant proposal.
- The members also plan to do a preliminary carbon footprint of the school.. Jotham agreed to attend a meeting to present information on how to do a basic carbon foot print.
- Sharon Daur, the faculty adviser and AP Environmental teacher said she can devote most of the next month, (now that they finished the AP exam) to these projects

PORTABLE EDUCATION DISPLAY

Jotham distributed a draft grant proposal for a multi-use portable environmental display

- It would be compact, so it could be easily transported from location to location and adaptable to multiple uses, including promoting the website, educational initiatives, various EC campaigns such as composting, the bottle campaign and anti-idling. One week it could be at the Farmer's Market, the next at newcomer's day, Green Day or at school or community events, Arts in the Park etc
- the unit would be permanently displayed in the library, Town Hall or the Baird
- All agreed that it would make our efforts more visible and engage the community
- The EC unanimously passed a resolution asking the trustees to write a grant to be submitted to ANJEC and other possible funding sources based upon Jotham's proposal, with a few small revisions Jotham is making

BARRY IS MOVING TO FLORIDA

- We need someone to take over the herculean task of maintaining the website and creating material. While Barry has been doing it almost by himself, it is more than a one person job.
- The Maplewood EC doesn't yet have a website, and there is a thought of combining forces and having a joint site
- Dawn volunteered to meet with Barry and see if she could take on the task

JANINE'S ELECTION – by the time you read these minutes you will know the outcome of election and if we need a new Chairman to replace Janine. The Village President nominates the Chairman.

SOUTH ORANGE BROCHURE

Larry prepared a hand-out of some questions for discussions and information that could be contained in a brochure. First, we must decide our objectives i.e. are we targeting prospective homeowner or current residents. Further should the format be a brochure on and single refrigerator piece?

- We discussed that there are already a number of outlets for this information and that it would be expensive and time consuming to produce
- As we would love to attract green minded home buyers, Dawn suggested that try to utilize the SO/Maplewood realty association
- James said we want to promote to both perspective and current homeowners why SO is special and interesting climatology and ecologically wise
- Discussion ensued regarding the most efficient and economical way for us to distribute information. Larry mentioned getting a business to fund a website through small, fairly inconspicuous advertisements
- At the next meeting we will each bring an inventory of the various outlets that disseminate information, including internet, Gaslight, Illuminating SO
- We passed a resolution asking Howard Levison to have an opt in for environmental issues when the C3 Alert goes into effect. That we can collect email addresses of environmentally concerned citizens and get our message out.

CAROL NEWMAN --CLEAN AND GREEN

- Dawn reported that there are now clear plastic receptacles for recycling at the train station
- Walter suggested that we need recycling on the streets of downtown
- Tom is going to ask Carol if she would like our assistance in (a) getting more garbage cans and recycling containers downtown (b) posting something in restaurants advising owners and patrons of

recycling rules etc. in an attempt to gain compliance (c) helping her get no littering signs or any other way we could help her keep the downtown cleaner

ANTI-GEESE

- Walter reported that we have missed our opportunity to deal with the issue for this year. The most effective way to combat the problem is to oil the eggs, which suffocates the unborn geese, without the mother's knowledge; So she continues to try to hatch them. Cruel, but apparently successful
- Michael says the town did it this spring in the quarry, but we don't know where else in town it has been done.
- John Festa the Health Officer is knowledgeable and we should contact him next February and offer our assistance

PLANNING BOARD

- Michael reported that Janine made a presentation to the planning board
- It was discussed that the EC needs to see plans submitted to the planning board in time for us to comment
- Sal Renda and Patty agreed to figure out the logistics for us to get the plans; this will also apply to proposed ordinances.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Overview of our mission and obligations
 - Michael discussed the fact that we have limited energy and resources and possibly we should focus on a few projects rather than the many we have been trying to address
 - Tom suggested that we encourage new attendees to participate in our meeting as members, alternates or just interested citizens who can take on projects
 - Michael also summarized part of the ordinance which authorizes our existence and pointed out that there are many tasks we aren't addressing such as an inventory of open space
 - We all agreed to read the ordinance before the next meeting, which is on the website and examine our statutory obligations
 - Tom will add this to next month's agenda, and we should discuss if the ordinance needs editing
2. Dawn advised that she has been accepted into the Leading Green initiative of ANJEC and we look forward to her participation
3. Sarah Jane will investigate if all town permits could require an environmental plan i.e. sufficient recycling receptacles,

arrangements for disposal and plans for other environmental impact issues

4. Jotham handed out information on a rain barrel system that we will discuss at our next meeting

WE UNNAMNIOUSLY PASSED A RESOLUTION THANKING BARRY FOR HIS EFFORTS ON THE WEBSITE AND IS VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE EC AND THAT WE WILL MISS HIS PARTICIPATION

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:25