

Environmental Commission Meeting - June 9, 2009 - Minutes

Draft

Larry Aronson (LA)
Jotham Bailey (JoB)
Janine Bauer (JaB)
Walter Clarke (WC)
Jim McGowan (JM)
Michael Miller (MM)
Tom Riordan (TR)
Mark Rosner (MR)
Dawn Williams (DW)

The minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting were approved.

Reports and Discussions:

New Positions – Tom Riordan is unanimously approved as Chairman. Mark Rosner replaces Howard Levison as liaison, LA agrees to be Secretary, JoB moves from alternate to commissioner, LA moves from second to first alternate, and DW becomes second alternate. DW agrees to maintain Environment South Orange website.

Review of Commission's statutory responsibilities – MM reviewed the Envi Com's duties o include review of plans before Planning Board for environmental concerns, recommendations to those plans, research into open land use, and keeping an index of all open space areas. JaB suggests EC should set up a link with the Open Space Committee and that a Recreation and Open Space Inventory is already kept on file at the Village and at DEP. MM advised that the Village Engineer or Clerk will get the plans to the EC Chair.

Budget – JaB states that the EC has no budget and is force to be creative and therefore stays independent of the BOT. TR suggests that a discussion of what budgetary needs the EC might have be put on the agenda for next month for a budget proposal to BOT.

Bd of Adj and Planning Bd applications – EC discusses whether the Village should classify impervious surfaces, based on their degree of permeability. JaB discusses problems with existing code and suggests a sliding scale of permeability. JoB states that examples written into the code

would be helpful to laymen. JaB requests any recommendations should be sent to her for collation and forwarding to the Village Clerk.

Rain Barrels – JoB suggests that the town should sponsor a rain barrel purchase program to residents similar to the compost bin sale. MM expresses aesthetic concerns. Group agrees a program would be beneficial.

Old Business – WC says that efforts to find grant money for anti-idling campaign have been fruitless. MR states WC should contact John Gross to find out the extent of existing Anti-idling efforts already underway by the town. DW expresses concerns about impact of materials used for such a campaign. WC suggests used campaign signs could be repurposed with anti-idling messages created by students.

LA emphasizes the need for an email list to efficiently communicate with the town's residents with the least environmental impact.

Green Fair – public question of a green fair similar to Maplewood's leads to discussion of a SO River Day as an alternative where community is encouraged to get involved. Ideas include a river clean up, recycled sculpture contest, litter pick up, and a green house tour.

Next Meeting is July 14th, 7:30 pm