



BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

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Minutes of Meeting
Shrewsbury Environmental Commission
Wednesday, February 7, 2011
Municipal Building, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

Chairwomen Jill Gwydir began the meeting at 7:37pm by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Presiding Officer's Statement in compliance with P.L. 1975 c.231, the Public Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Bonnie Brookes. Present were Chairwoman Jill Gwydir and members Susan Binns, Robin Blair, Deidre DerAsadourian, Dr. Patrick DiBello, Pat Kurdyla, associate member Mark Degenhart and Council Liaison Jeff DeSalvo.

Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2010 Meeting

Dr. DiBello asked that a few spelling mistakes be corrected. Dr. DiBello made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2011 meeting. Ms. Binns seconded the motion.

Planning

Ms. DerAsadourian stated that there are no new plans from the Planning Board to review. She requested that the Environmental Commission look at different sections of town and produce some recommendations on what areas need more open space and which are okay as is.

Dr. DiBello inquired about the status of COAH in Shrewsbury. Secretary Brookes questioned if another municipality was fulfilling the Borough's COAH requirement. Ms. Binns stated that having another municipality fulfill the Borough's requirement was dismissed at the beginning of COAH discussions years ago. Councilman DeSalvo stated that COAH program is completely up in the air at the moment. Ms. DerAsadourian stated that Governor Christie will be making changes and that the K. Hovnanian project falls under the regulations in which they submitted their plans.

Chairwomen Gwydir stated that the Trader Joe's signage was approved and Councilman DeSalvo commented that it would be nicer.

New and Unfinished Business

LNG

Chairwomen Gwydir informed the Commission that the LNG meeting was cancelled.

Sustainable NJ

Chairwomen Gwydir stated that January 18th meeting of Sustainable NJ went really well. She explained that actions have been saved to the Sustainable NJ website and when the Commission has enough points, all the actions will be submitted together. Chairwomen Gwydir reviewed a few of the actions for which the Environmental Commission will receive points. Items include a signed resolution establishing the Commission, the shredding program including its advertisements, and Project Porch Light. She stated that at this time their application has 45 points ready to go.

Ms. Binns stated that she spoke with Frank Clark of the Department of Public Works concerning the Environment Resource Inventory (ERI) and he agreed to go to Freehold to print a map when he got a chance. She stated that the Shade Tree Commission is waiting for their next meeting but has two people working on it and their portion should be completed soon. Ms. Binns shared that the issue she is encountering involves determining who has a copy of the ERI. Ms. Kurdyla stated that the Clerk should have a copy and also inquired if it will be on a CD. Ms. Binns confirmed it would be on a CD in a word document. Chairwomen Gwydir stated that the ERI is worth 20 points for Sustainable NJ. She informed the Commission that the Rain Garden is coming a long and she is working with the school on the project, which will give them more points.

Chairwomen Gwydir stated that Councilman Menapace was submitting an ordinance to the Planning Board for review concerning the construction of windmills. This ordinance is needed due to the fact that currently there are no regulations governing windmills. She stated that the ordinance is off the Sustainable NJ website. Ms. DerAsadourian stated that this issue was discussed at the Planning Board's last meeting. Chairwomen Gwydir stated that the Borough Engineer and the Planning Board Attorney have reviewed this ordinance. Mr. Degenhart commented that he has not seen any windmills. Dr. DiBello responded that many communities like Atlantic City has windmills but there have been complaints concerning the noise and the visual aspect adversely effecting property values. He also stated that the fishermen at the Cape have complained that it affects fishing. Ms. Binns commented that fish love the mills because it creates a reef for them and should benefit the fishermen rather than hindering them.

Ms. DerAsadourian questioned if there was an ordinance for solar panels stating that some give off more glare than others. Dr. DiBello stated that there is a problem with people buying up farms to create solar farms, which reduces the amount of local food. Councilman DeSalvo commented that it also reduces the amount of green space.

Chairwomen Gwydir stated that the Borough could receive a \$500 incentive for passing the windmill ordinance. She stated that she is looking into creating a pesticide free zone and possibly a program to recycle more objects in the Borough like carpets and carpet foam.

Mr. Degenhart brought up the topic of the building of the truck wash. Councilman DeSalvo informed the Commission that it had been temporarily scrapped.

Chairwomen Gwydir stated that she was going to speak to Mayor Burden and Thomas Seaman concerning having an energy audit conducted for the municipal complex that could monetarily benefit the Borough. She also brought up a possible farmer's market at The Grove and a 'No Idling' campaign. Dr. DiBello commented that an energy audit for one building is good but questioned if there was any way to encourage people to conduct home energy audits.

Chairwomen Gwydir stated that there are programs and we could do a carbon footprint but that is a huge project. Councilman DeSalvo suggested that we could encourage home audits at the Earth Day Fair to which Chairwomen Gwydir commented that the Commission could invite contractors that perform the audits to the Fair. Mr. Degenhart stated that the reason that he did not get one conducted for his home because everything, including the floor, needs to be removed from the attic so they can do a pressurized test. Ms. DerAsadourian stated that Black & Decker makes an energy reader and suggested that the Commission buy a few and rent them out to the residents. She stated that she owned one and it worked well.

Earth Day

Ms. Blair stated that a key element in the Earth Day Fair, the rentals including the tent, tables, and chairs, which are normally donated couldn't be provided free of cost this year. She stated that the rental business has agreed to supply the Commission with the rentals at a reduced rate of \$970.00, which the Commission does not have. Ms. Blair stated the normal cost for the 25 tables, 50 chairs and the tent would be upwards of \$3000.00. Mr. Degenhart asked if the Earth Day Fair could be moved to the Shrewsbury Borough School's gym. Chairwomen Gwydir stated that the Fair is held at the Municipal Complex because of the electronic recycling but they can look into using the school. Dr. DiBello stated they could ask the Council for money to which Councilman DeSalvo commented that the Borough does not have any extra money for anything. Councilman DeSalvo suggested that the covered walkway could be used at the school while also getting more involvement from the school. Ms. DerAsadourian questioned if the Fair could be held at The Grove. Chairwoman Gwydir stated that The Grove requires that the Fair be open to all their customers if it is held at their location and that the electronic recycling is for

Shrewsbury residents only. The firehouse was also suggested but there is an issue with traffic and parking. The question arose if the Earth Day Fair could be held in the courtroom and Secretary Brookes stated that she would speak with Thomas Seaman.

Councilman DeSalvo stated that the Boy Scouts will conduct a ring toss and the Girl Scouts will also participate. Chairwomen Gwydir stated that she has spoke to The Grove and they will do something. She stated that the art class at the school would create the passport and posters. Ms. Binns stated that the Shade Tree Commission and the Garden Club are among the organizations that already agreed to participate at the Fair. Ms. Binns stated that *Red Hot* was going to do an ad and she is still awaiting a response from Master Gardener. She stated that the Bee Lady cannot come and she spoke to the Department of Public Works and they seemed interested in participating but would have to get Council approval for the overtime. Ms. DerAsadourian stated she would call Lowes about donating energy efficient light bulbs in addition to contacting Project Porch Light to see if she could hand out lights at the Fair. Ms. Binns stated that she would be receiving biodegradable grocery and dog cleanup bags to hand out at the Fair. Councilman DeSalvo suggested that the Commission contact Trader Joes to see if they would like to contribute to the event. Members agreed to contact various local businesses for donations for and participation in the Fair.

Ms. Binns commented that the Environmental Commission should have a table that could be related to the spring workshop. Ms. DerAsadourian suggested encouraging kids to bike or walk to school and get credit for such via homework passes. Chairwomen Gwydir commented that Sustainable NJ has a program similar to that.

Ms. Blair stated that at Christ Church's holiday bazaar there was a group who sell handmade items to help women with breast cancer and they wanted to participate in more local events. She questioned if the Fair would be a good event for them. The connection between the environment and disease was discussed and it was concluded that this would not be a good venue to have crafters.

Spring Workshop

Councilman Gwydir suggested composting as the topic for the spring workshop and recommended the second or third week in May for the event. Ms. Blair stated that the Garden Club was looking at the third Sunday in May for their Rain Barrel event. Ms. Binns suggested that the Commission use the Rain Barrel event as their spring workshop and put off a composting workshop till another time. Ms. Blair explained the Rain Barrel program and stated that participants would have to prepay \$45.00 for the event to cover costs. She asked if anyone would be willing to help organize the event and the next meeting would be held on February 22nd at Panera. Ms. Blair inquired if we could get Sustainable NJ points for it. Chairwomen Gwydir stated that they could help with the advertisement and Ms. Binns stated that they could place an

ad in *Red Hot*. Ms. Blair explained that this workshop would be open to residents and non-residents alike and if they have a great interest they two sessions could be held.

Correspondence

Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. DiBello to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by **Ms. Kurdyla** and the meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Attest: _____
Bonnie Brookes, Commission Secretary