

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Tenafly Environmental Commission
Municipal Center
April 18, 2013**

Present

Joe Lavin, Jeff Toonkel, Nina Sieden, Jon Warms, David Cavilla, Bob Beutel , John Purdy & Jim Coyle.

Guests

Carole Hodges and Vicki Chen

Joe Lavin called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Review of March Minutes

March minutes were reviewed and accepted with minor changes. Motion to accept by John Purdy and seconded by Jon Warms. The motion to accept carried.

Green Team update

Bob Beutel discussed the anti-idling signs that have been installed near the schools and a newly organized bulky plastic recycling program at the transfer station. The new plastic recycling program is designed to accept large items such as children's toys, playground equipment and other plastics that don't normally fit into the recycling containers. This program will earn credits towards the Sustainable NJ program.

Carole Hodges presented a letter she proposes to send out on behalf of the Green Team. The letter asks for volunteers to fill vacant positions on the Green Team, thereby allowing the Team to carry on with the Sustainable NJ initiatives. Tenafly Environmental Commission members made suggestions and will email changes to Carole.

Tenafly Nature Center

Joe Lavin noted the TNC has a hearing scheduled for Tuesday April 23rd before the Mayor and Council. The hearing will discuss the TNC's plan to build a new center on Clinton Ave. This meeting will allow the public to be heard but wont includes any decision making by the M&C. Any feedback will be forwarded to the NJ Green Acres Commission for consideration.

TEC members discussed concern over many mistruths that have been spread by opponents. Unwarranted concerns were raised by members of the public that the area may be developed beyond the proposed TNC plan to include athletic fields, housing or a scout camp. As much of the area is designated wetlands there is very little space available for the TNC to work on.

Energy Program

John Purdy will meet with Jeff Miller to review details. A presentation for the Church of Atonement has been prepared and will be forwarded to TEC members for review.

Planning Board

Jeff Toonkel reported the Bergen County United Way will build on the 311 Tenafly Rd site. Details are being worked out with the Borough to determine how to transfer ownership. Funds from Affordable Housing were used for the purchase.

Earth Day

Joe Discussed that Earth Day will be on April 22nd and a notice will be posted on the municipal billboard. He mentioned that we should pay more attention to reducing our output of garbage and recyclables rather than just focusing on the act of ensuring we just recycle. Bob noted that Tenafly has managed to reduce its solid waste output by approximately 30% over 10 years. However, despite more electronics and paperless media, the Borough still collects the same amount of paper for recycling.

Other Discussion

Joe Lavin discussed upcoming trade shows:

The Bergen County Utilities Authority will hold an event called "Green Up" at Bergen Community College on May 9th with a rain date of May 10th.

The Green Festival Trade Show will be held at the NYC Javitts Center between April 20 and 21. Free admission is available from WABC Ch 7.

Jon mentioned the Council Landscaping Subcommittee met to discuss the current ordinance and decided no changes should be made.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by David Cavilla