

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

Present

Joe Lavin, Carole Hodges, Nina Seiden, Jon Warms, David Cavilla, Bob Beutel , John Purdy , Jeff Miller & Jim Coyle.

Guests

Bruce Baker

Joe Lavin called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

Review of June Minutes

June minutes were reviewed and accepted with minor changes. Motion to accept by Jim Coyle and seconded by Jeff Miller. The motion to accept carried.

Commission Members

Joe Lavin welcomed new member Carole Hodges to the Tenafly Environmental Commission. He also presented a resolution thanking Joe McDermott for his years of service to the Commission. Jim Coyle motioned to approve and was seconded by Jon Warms. The motion to accept was carried.

Green Team

Carole Hodges spoke about her efforts to resurrect the Green Team. She mentioned Bob Beutel had recommended Bruce Baker be included on the team. She also noted that Jeff Brown as Tenafly resident had sent her information on compost bins and rain barrels. In addition he may be a potential presenter at seminars.

Joe discussed the upcoming Walmart Grant Program that closes on 8/4/13. Grants total either \$2000 or \$10,000. He asked the TEC members to review the Sustainable NJ web site to find one task of interest. Discussion was had on what grants should be sought from Walmart and whether the commission should request money.

Planning Board

Jon Warms reported that he was unaware of any active applications of concern at this time.

Open Space

Jeff Miller gave a detailed description of the Roosevelt Common , Open Space areas, Open Space Tax & copy of Borough Ordinances.

Jeff explained although the fund had 2.1 million dollars in its account there is no well defined process for reviewing potential acquisitions of open land. Jeff noted this was a pertinent issue as the Council was discussing the use of the money on Geissinger Field.

Jon discussed the BOE is considering artificial turf and lighting at Geissinger Field for 2017, but could do it sooner if Tenafly helped with funds.

He explained the Mayor & Council had discussions with the BOE that would require a commitment to share the field if they were to provide funds.

Joe and Jon both added the TEC initiated the push to create the ordinance to preserve open space.

Jon noted that the Council discussed in 2005, at the request of Joe McDermott, how to require property owners adjacent to Borough land to give Tenafly the right of first refusal on sales. The Council decided that it would be too difficult to require owners to wait while the town reviews an offer. No further proposal to the Council were made by TEC.

Jeff mentioned his concern that the Fund for Open Space is for municipal purchases. However the Council discussed using the money on Geissinger Field which is Board of Education property.

Jim Coyle mentioned concern that while the fund is languishing in the account, no process is in place to define what to use it on. He added that the issue of Geissinger Field should have been referred by the Mayor and Council sooner than when it was in July.

Jon replied that there were no firm details before the M&C at the time.

Jeff presented a letter for the TEC to review that would cover concerns he had over the use of the Open Space Funds on the field. Points in the letter included:

- Establishing a process to find viable property
- Recommendation that the fund mature prior to its use
- Request a meeting with M&C to discuss and review
- Discussion of soil permeability and groundwater concerns

Lengthy discussion was had on whether the Commission should be involved in the issue
The Commission agreed to discuss the issue further in September.

Meeting was adjourned at 10.35 PM

Respectfully submitted by David Cavilla