

Minutes of a Meeting of the Tenafly Environmental Commission
Municipal Center
July 21 2011

Present

Jim Coyle, Dave Cavilla, Bob Beutel, Eileen Pleva, Jeff Toonkel, Jeff Miller, Nina Seiden & John Warmis

Eileen Pleva called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

Old Business

Minutes for the April meeting were reviewed and approved

Minutes for the May meeting were reviewed and accepted with changes

There are no minutes for the June meeting as it was cancelled

Eileen reviewed Sustainable NJ and our points accumulated to date and mentioned Bob will be submitting out application shortly. On August 15th there will be a meeting to discuss the natural resources inventory which will be open to the public.

Bob asked the Sustainable NJ program if Tenafly could apply for another grant for 2012 but it turns out that we must wait a year before applying.

Jon asked if anyone knew how much energy the PSE&G solar panels were contributing to NJ. Jim said the data should be available on the PSEG website.

Eileen told the TEC that Joe McDermott had resigned his position and in turn opened a vacancy that we will need to fill.

Nina volunteered to put together a letter for the Tenafly Newsletter detailing the importance of leaf composting. Bob has already submitted a letter covering Tenafly autumn leaf regulations.

Solar

Jim prepared and submitted a letter to the May and Council detailing a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). He recommended that the town set up a demo to show residents what is can do which would serve as an endorsement of the concept rather than a specific brand or company.

There was discussion about how large an array would need to be to generate 10KW. There are few public locations in the town large enough other than the DPW roof. Jeff Miller was concerned that Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SREC's) have dropped below \$200/ kilowatt, As a result many lenders are not interested in the smaller projects due to low return and market uncertainty.

The M & C has not acted on the letter due to time constraints but recommended the TEC provide more info to the M&C. Jeff Toonkel was concerned that the M&C may not act as it may need a more concrete recommendation from the TEC.

Jon added that the M&C will read the letter and not act on it as there is no definite request for action.

Jeff Miller recommend the town should consider a small solar array at the Recycling Center on Grove St. Eileen and Jeff Toonkel recommended the Borough Engineer should handle the presentation for planning reasons. Jeff Miller also added that it is important to match the array output to the building consumption that it is associated with as solar systems are not allowed to over generate.

A letter will need to be written to the M&C asking them to direct the Borough Administrator to get involved.

Eileen recommended the TEC apply for a grant to cover the cost of an engineer who could guide the M&C through the process of site selection and installation.

Jeff Miller proposed we presented a motion to the M&C. It will say the TEC requests the M&C direct the Borough Administrator to obtain floor/building plans of all Borough owned property along with power consumption for the purpose of further exploration of solar opportunities in Tenafly.

Jim seconded & all members were in favor.

New Business

Leaf Blower Ban

The M&C received a complaint from a resident asking for restrictions on leaf blowers. Eileen presented information from PLANET (landscape trade group) and the US EPA. Discussion took place over whether to address sound or air pollution.

The Commission was in general agreement that more restrictive changes to the ordinance would be anti-business, hard to regulate and discriminatory. Eileen proposed that the current ordinance stay unchanged with exception of reducing and standardizing Saturday hours to 9-6PM for both contractors and homeowners. Whereas in the past homeowners could work until 8pm but contractors were 6PM.

Eileen said she would write a letter to the M&C explain the TEC does not support any major changes to the current ordinance. If the ordinance were modified there could be unintended consequences such as an increase of weekday traffic if Saturdays were eliminated and a heavier reliance on water to wash driveways and walks.

Planning Board

Jeff Toonkel reported there is no activity at this time. Tenafly Diner is working on a proposal to expand and utilize outdoor sidewalk seating. The Borough Engineer is concerned that they are proposing the additional seating over a buried easement drain

Fall Forum

Eileen recommended Wildlife in Tenafly or a walk along the Tenafly Brook.

Tree Planting

Tenafly has a budget for a fall tree planting. The commission discussed focusing on the Atwood area due to the increased construction.

Other discussion

Bob Discussed his concern over increases in sewer charges that are likely caused by infiltration and inflow. Bob proposed a condition Certificate of Occupancy which would require inspection at time of purchase/sale. This would prevent sump pumps from being discharged into the sewer. Jeff Toonkel offered to draft a letter on behalf of the TEC to the Planning Board proposing this resolution.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to be discussed

Meeting was adjourned at 9.30PM

Respectfully submitted by David Cavilla