

Minutes of a Meeting of the Tenafly Environmental Commission
Municipal Center
March 19th 2010

Present.

Sandra Divack Moss, Jim McDermott, Jim Coyle, Dave Cavilla, Bob Beutel, Eileen Pleva, Nina Seiden, Joe Lavin and member of the public Mark Feldman.

Eileen Pleva called the meeting to order at 8:13 p.m.

Minutes.

The minutes of the February meeting were discussed and approved. Motion to approve by Sandra Divack-Moss and seconded by Jim Coyle.

Budget.

Discussion of The TEC budget and its relationship to the Green Team. Concern was raised that the TEC must understand its position and powers within the Borough as it is largely an advisory committee.

Councilman McDermott mentioned that the TEC has historically been run casually and is the only commission without a paid secretary. Budgeting for a secretary might make the TEC more formal and may protect against challenges to its votes and decisions. Cost was estimated at about \$2500 per year, which would represent a significant portion of the commissions small budget. Sandra Divack Moss mentioned that if the Mayor and Council wants greater formality then the burden would be on them to provide more clear direction and funding.

ANJEC Membership

Membership has not been paid for 2010 (Jan 1-Dec 31). It was decided that the TEC would shift to a 10 person membership with open plan for members to attend forums at no additional cost.

Grant Opportunity

There are matching funds available for numerous environmental programs. Bob Beutel noted at this time any request for project funding is unlikely to gain M&C approval due to budget constraints. It would be more realistic to work on the grant in October for submission in the 2011 budget. Jim Coyle suggested using the grant for an environmental inventory and Eileen Pleva recommended weeding of Pfister pond at the Tenafly Nature Center.

Tenakill Creek Trail

Joe Lavin discussed the potential trail that is proposed and gave basic background information about the current Riparian Zone which sets a buffer of 50-100 meters along the waterways. There is concern that Governor Christie may push for a 50 meter maximum limit. Joe mentioned that United Water is apprehensive as it will raise ADA access concerns, create potential tree loss and long term riverbank damage. TEC indicated

a lack of support for the construction of the trail. Sandra will contact the Demarest Nature Center Liaison that was pushing the for the trail and mention we are not interested in pursuing it.

Sustainable NJ Update

Bob discussed Sustainable NJ and that we have achieved enough points for certification. He is pushing to have builders recycle their construction and demolition debris on large projects, developments and municipal construction. This would in turn allow the town to apply for additional grant money. Contractors would be required to keep records of the materials they dispose. The TEC will write a letter in support of the DPW recycling reporting program. A motion was made by Sandra supporting the M&C extension of the "Green Team" through the end of 2010.

Excessive Idling

A parent who has children in Maugham school is spearheading a campaign to reduce car idling in the school pick up line. The TEC is in support of the anti-idling effort and recognizes that this act may count towards Sustainable NJ.

Earth Day 2010

Jim McDermott suggested we consider planning a forum, in conjunction with the Tenafly Nature Center, detailing wild animals of Tenafly as we have a limited amount of time leading to Earth Day. Further discussion led to a consensus that Fern Gully would be presented on April 22 at the Tenafly theater. Joe Lavin volunteered to head the committee and help manage the event. The breakdown of responsibility will be: Sandra researching 2009 details, Eileen will contact the theater, David Cavilla will publicize through the schools HSA presidents, Jim Doyle will post flyers in town and fundraising will be shared between Sandra and Jim McDermott.

Rail Update

No new information as reported by Joe McDermott

Planning Board Report.

No new information as relayed by Jeff Toonkel

Correspondence

A letter was submitted by Mark Feldman asking for clarification on Sustainable NJ and contracts between Tenafly and PSE&G. He expressed concern as the Borough engineer was not involved in the process. Eileen responded that the TEC is advisory and does not get involved in Borough contracts and that further questions should be directed to the M&C. Joe McDermott mentioned that the TEC minutes did not reflect the commission approval or support of the Sustainable NJ audit process.

General

Eileen asked if we could cap the meetings at a 2 hr limit.

Motion to keep meetings 8PM -10PM by Nina Seiden and seconded by Joe McDermott.

Motion to Adjourn by Joe McDermott, seconded by Joe Lavin.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cavilla