

Minutes of a Meeting of the Tenafly Environmental Commission
Municipal Center
January 19, 2012

Present

Dave Cavilla, Joe Lavin, Jeff Miller, Jim Coyle, Bob Beutel , Lori Scinto & Nina Seiden

Guests

Mary Norman
Howard Seiden

Joe Lavin called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m.

General Discussion

The review of the December minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

Dave Cavilla nominated Joe Lavin as chairperson, in favor were Dave Cavilla, Nina Seiden, Jeff Miller and Joe Lavin.

Joe Lavin nominated Dave Cavilla as Deputy Chairperson, in favor were Nina, Jeff, Jim and Joe.

New member Lori Scinto was appointed by Mayor Rustin.

Sustainable NJ

Joe discussed 2012 goals for the TEC which include achieving the silver tier within the Sustainable NJ program and asked for suggestions. Bob mentioned he is working on Green Fleet Certification. Dave recommended we work on all the easiest certifications such as the Companion Animal Plan, Rain Gardens and Cut it and Leave it Program.

Jeff Miller suggested a demo solar array that details actual real time output. Jeff also suggested a review of municipal power consumption to determine if switching to a third party provider would save money.

Newsletter

Joe forwarded the Cut it and Leave it flyer to the Borough administrator for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.

Dave will forward a version of Cut it and Leave it to the Borough Clerk for inclusion in an upcoming mailing to local landscape contractors.

Rail

Joe reviewed sections 11-22 of the DEIS and believes that most issues are addressed in the plan and that there are no environmental issues if Tenafly is included in the quiet zone. Vibration is an issue that would be addressed by NJ transit and is outside of our scope of review. Joe mentioned that Mayor Rustin was most concerned with traffic and pollution. Joe recommended we ask NJT for an elevated parking garage rather than a lot as it will have a smaller footprint, require less property condemnation and should have solar or a green roof.

Jim added that although the rail may bring a net decrease in pollution as it will remove cars from the road, Tenafly may see a net increase due to a local increase of cars idling at crossings. Jim also mentioned he thought we should not comment on the DEIS as we are not qualified to argue any of the points.

Howard Seiden, guest and Chairperson of the Transportation Committee stated his concern that Tenafly's request for extension has been ignored. He recommended we raise our concerns with the NJT prior to February 21 as it is the final deadline to submit statements. Howard explained that 2 of the town intersections will have a failing grade based on an anticipated wait of over 80 seconds or 2 light cycles.

Joe recommended we do not speak at the upcoming rail meeting. Instead we should ask the Mayor and Council that they get clarification from NJT on the quiet zone, parking garage and actual land use around the recycling center.

Dog Park

Discussion was until the next meeting as Jon Warms was not present.

Meeting was adjourned at 9.16PM

Respectfully submitted by David Cavilla