

Minutes of a Meeting of the Tenafly Environmental Commission Municipal Center September 20, 2012

Present

Joe Lavin, Jeff Toonkel, Dave Cavilla, Jon Warms, Bob Beutel , John Purdy & Nina Seiden.

Guests

Mark Feldman

Joe Lavin called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

Review of May Minutes

John Purdy motioned to accept the May minutes with corrections and was seconded by Jeff Toonkel.

Old Business

Bob Beutel is still waiting to hear back about the Sustainable Tenafly Grant application but should know in a few more weeks.

Joe reported on “How to Outsmart Waste” that he attended at Bergen Community College. It was attended by approximately 40 people. The presenters included recycling representatives from waste oil, food and general recycling.

Joe mentioned the Sustainable Tenafly literature should also include discussion of “freecycling”, which is the free trading of viable goods.

Bob discussed proposed modifications to the tree ordinance which will include:

- Increasing the minimum tree trunk caliper size to 6” (from 4” as few towns recognize small trees)
- Hazard trees will require a permit as a formality but without fee
- Liability for breaches of town ordinance will fall on the contractor

Planning Board

Jon warms discussed the NJ DEP will likely approve the plan for the 311 Tenafly Rd property with modifications.

Green Team

No new news to report.

Other Discussion

Guest Mark Feldman asked if the TEC would ask for improvements such as dredging to the Tenakill Brook. Bob explained the NJ DEP will not allow dredging of the Tenafly streams or ponds despite our requests.

Mark also asked if the pond buffer would be modified or improved. Bob explained the buffer is an effective barrier designed by Rutgers and in its current form has successfully kept geese away. Egret and Heron have been observed frequenting the pond.

Meeting was adjourned at 9.09PM

Respectfully submitted by David Cavilla