

Minutes of May 16, 2019 8:06pm

Meeting of the Tenafly Environmental Commission

Location: Borough Hall

Adopted on June 20, 2019

In Attendance: Daniel Parks, Alternate Chair Olga Milanos, Alt. Secretary Anna Makrinos, Gina Weinstein, Allison Chertoff, Visitor - Joe Halajian

*****All meetings are on a Thursday and start at 8:00 PM in the Borough Hall Conference Room. Green Team meeting are now held 1:30pm on its scheduled Thursday afternoon. Please check Borough Calendar.**

Adoption of 4/2018 Minutes: Reviewed and Adopted.

Green Team Report: Earth Fair was held on April 27th in TMS parking lot. Our Tenafly community joined forces to make it a huge success. DPW, BOE, Tenafly Chamber of Commerce, and NVEF Earth Fair Committee supported one another. The weather was very windy but did not stop folks from attending. The Thunderbird performance had many folks attend the event. Parking was not an issue. Use of the BOE property was well managed by the NVEF team. Overall, everyone was very happy with vendors and non-profit organizations that participated in the event. Everyone's hard work and commitment paid off. Even some Little League community members came by for lunch.

Single Use Plastic Bags Update - Discussed Hoboken and Teaneck's Programs. Reviewed the bill (A-3267) which would establish a fee on the use of single-use carryout bags provided by certain types of stores to customers. The bill would require each operator of a store to impose a \$0.05 fee on a customer for each single-use carryout bag that is provided to the customer. Discussion ended on the different options to cut out the use of plastic; using biodegradable bags, to paper straws.

Rose Garden Update - There is a \$100K grant that was given to the borough by a resident in his will. Funds are earmarked for this specific project. Town has found a rosarian who will donate his time. Garden Club has 30 members but feel the town needs to provide them more support.

Borough is looking into the greenhouse. With an inoperable thermostat, the plants died this winter. Contractors have been hired. Shades and window treatments will be completely repaired.

Pond TNC Update - Dan reported dam installed using Open Space Trust Fund.

Community Garden Update - Water source needs to be revisited. Tree was cut down. Tree that needs to be cut down, has not been removed. There is still shade on certain parts of the garden. Most of the plots are being maintained by the "owners."

Bee Hive Update - Green Team has been prepared for its arrival since April. Borough is now looking into the insurance and paperwork needed.

Tenafly Convent Discussion - Missionary Franciscan Sisters of Tenafly closed their religious gift shop. Property is not for sale; 253 Knickerbocker Rd, Tenafly, New Jersey.

Electric vehicles and charging stations Update - Will wait to hear from Chairman Warms

Balloon Usage in Borough Update - No borough event will allow helium filled balloons. Application for permit will state this item, clearly.

Dog Park Update - Stakes are in for fencing. Looking into parking issues. Revisiting the idea of forming a committee of residents. Tree will not be removed.

Styrofoam Recycling in Tenafly Update - Waiting for report and possible town-wide recycling event date from Zina. Discussed the success of the Leonia's program and how the Girl Scouts helped out.

Other open items discussed

DPW's roles:

Streets and road maintenance.

Parks. Discussed skate park closure.

Shade Trees.

Recycling.

Building Maintenance.

Roundup in Tenafly Concerns -

Visitor discussed Glyphosate: the world's most widely-used herbicide and active ingredient in Roundup. Possible courses of action were discussed.

TEANECK, New Jersey Soccer field Discussion- Field has been shut down, because of a tiny bird and its nest filled with eggs.

Next meeting June 20, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.