

Environmental Committee Zoom Minutes
September 30, 2020

In attendance:

Councilwoman Liaison: Heather Wasser

Council Members: Cynthia Soroka Dunn, Bruce Steinthal, Andy Anderson, Louise Reich and Mary Beth Topor

Not in attendance:

Polly Zurlini and Mary Beth Postman

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

Discussion:

*Approved Minutes from August 2020 meeting

*Tree Ordinance: Cynthia discussed we should vote on one change in the Tree Ordinance which is "Who will manage the law and the enforcement would come from the Construction Code Official"

Andy believes that the Forestry Management Plan needs to be looked at again as this document states "22 action items". The Borough should be using this for action on tree management and the Forestry Plan should be reviewed and implement these "action items" before rewriting and enforcing new Tree Ordinance. Cynthia stated that we have been sitting on this for 4 years and the Shade Tree told EC to go forward. Forestry Plan can be discussed on October 13th at next Town Council meeting.

Louise Reich motioned for the Construction Code Official to manage the law and enforce the rules. Mary Beth Topor seconded the motion. Louise Reich, Mary Beth Topor and Cynthia Soroka were all in favor of the motion. Andy Anderson and Bruce Steinthal were NOT in favor of the motion.

*Louise Reich updated EC on the electric chargers in Closter Plaza: no one has gotten back to her regarding this. Perhaps looking into Demarest DPW or ANJEC for help.

*Heather Wasser updated EC on Solar in town: waiting on an Energy Audit and 14 months of utility bills that were given to Borough Finance, will remind K.J. Heather also stated a lot of items are still on a "holding pattern" due to COVID.

SUEZ update on loss of water pressure following the last two storms: SUEZ does have a generator and will be upgrading electrical in upcoming year

*Discussion of EC website and what should it include: passing ordinance of plastic ban, Haworth Cleanup Day, mission statement

*Discussion of speaking with Mayor and Council on land to protect in Haworth and seeing if Green Acres is interested in obtaining the land. Bruce stated that maybe we should direct them to Planning Board. Andy mentioned what are some advantages of this for the Borough: Tree and air quality, land not to be developed on and drainage issues. On the EC recommendation to the Mayor and Council, we would like to explore designating additional lands in town as Green Acres. Andy suggested we look into a list of the "open areas" in town.

*Cynthia recommended that EC give leftover funds to Green Acres to replant trees to those people who lost trees in past storms. Bruce stated our budget ends in June or July. Andy said maybe we should use leftover money towards preparing maps and pamphlets to distribute to people in town about EC.

*Discussion of other land not being developed on other than Green Acres to make a "Nature Preserve"

*Discussion of subdivision on Whitman and Prospect: trees were removed and should not have been. No C.O. will be issued until the builder plants new trees and provides a bond.

Open Meeting to the Public

Closed Meeting: 7:40pm

Minutes submitted by Mary Beth Topor