J. Paralis

BECMinutes6April2016

MEMBERS

BLOOMINGDALE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES OF 6 APRIL 2016

Carol Jagiello Karen Labazzetta Mark Crum Ellen Gerber Frank O’Reilly Chairperson Mary Knight

June Paralis Elizabeta Crevar Alt 2

Maureen Tierney Alt 1

Location: Council Chambers

Time: 7:30 PM

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm

Attendance

Mark Crum Present

Carol Jagiello Present Frank O’Reilly Present Mary Knight Present Ellen Gerber Present Karen Labazzetta Present Maureen Tierney Alt 1 Present Liz Crevar Alt 2 Absent June Paralis Present

Acceptance of Minutes

Frank O’Reilly declined acceptance of the March minutes. Frank will handle decisions regarding membership if

attendance is an issue.

Comments

Tony Costa noted the following:

1) Email: all Borough Business must go through Bloomingdale Borough email and not through personal emails.

2) The Mayor and Councilwoman Hudson announced a community garden to be placed behind the Senior Center which is approximately 50’ x 200’. Tony spoke with Councilwoman Hudson noting the Fitzpatrick volunteered to remove tree stumps, tress and bring dirt in to level it. Discussion ensued with critical concern that this property was a part of the old rubber factory and the quality of the area may have contamination. A motion was made to write a letter to the Mayor and Council voicing our concerns regarding the soil by June Paralis and 2nd by Maureen Tierney with all in favor.

Hometown Habitat Presentation: Ellen Gerber noted that Elaine Petrowski had to postpone presentation until next month.

Correspondence

Bloomingdale Housing Element and Fair Share Plan of 3/4/2016

Letter to Christine Cofone re Draft HEFSP.pdf 3/24/16

PRC letter to Christine Cofone of 3/28/16

PRC letter to Bloomingdale Planning Board of 4/2/16

PRC review of 2015 Master Plan Amendment of 6/22/16

PRC letter to the public regarding the Meer Tract of 3/29/16

State Farm Advisory Board Grant

NJDEP Recreational Trails Grant Program

National Mayors Challenge for Conservation

Bills

There were no bills

Early Public Discussion

No public in attendance.

Reports

Federal Hill:

Meer Tract: Finbar bought the Meer Tract. Finbar is a part of Tilcon. Still awaiting the results from the Court regarding COAH. The court date is 4/8/16. The town’s withdrawal from the Highlands will depend on the court ruling. Carol Jagiello noted we can opt back into the Highlands because we are in a preservation area and not a planning area. Our withdrawal will be based on whether or not re-zoning occurs for Federal Hill.

Highlands RMP – no information

ANJEC – not pursuing grant

Dragon Fly Meadows/ Higgins Peragallo: Before any improvements can be made we need permission since we do not own the property. PRC / Lori Howard has requested the town’s assistance in clearing out the DFM area but this will entail heavy duty machinery to remove trees and a bridge is needed to cross over the stream to even make it accessible to the public – involves too much money. Ellen Gerber noted that discussion of parking with Lori Howard for 5-6 parking spots was looked on favorably by the PRC – however, a traffic study is needed. Ellen will inquire as to the cost of a traffic study. Tony Costa will ask Fitzpatrick to give a rough estimate for clearing the area in front of HP to allow to parking as well as include the materials similar to Friendship Park parking lot. It is possible that the County may participate, but it is unknown. Karen Labazzetta noted that we really need to be careful as far as water run-off since the land is situated between two homes. Ellen and June visited the area and found that it’s mostly brush that needs to be cleared away to allow for 5-6 parking spaces. Clearing the brush will allow for clear site lines of on-coming traffic since the area falls close to a curve in the road.

Lot # 66 is a lot located next to FH which the town got back in a tax foreclosure. Ellen Gerber made a motion to preserve this parcel (Lot 66 page 4.06 off Union Avenue) in perpetuity in its natural state. June Paralis 2nd with all in favor.

Stream Assessment: per Carol Jagiello this is set for May 21st at 10 am (no rain date). Frank O’Reilly reserved the Senior Center because a class presentation will be made prior to visiting the stream. Mary Knight prepared a sign up form for this which will have to be advertised, flyers made up and distribute them as well as involve newspapers. Mary Knight and Carol Jagiello will work on this. Carol noted that a final head count must be submitted a minimum of 10 days prior to May 21 so that accommodations for the appropriate number of ambassadors will be available.

State Farm Advisory Board Grant – this is not applicable to Bloomingdale. Carol Jagiello made a motion that

BEC not be involved and 2nd by Karen Labazzetta with all in favor.

Highlands Planning Grant: not suitable for BEC

National Mayors Challenge for Conservation: not suitable for BEC

Old Business

Intern – nothing to report. June Paralis and Liz Crevar began working on web site. Frank O’Reilly noted he and

Mary Knight have met regarding the website and decided to use Go Daddy and will register “BECNJ.org” as the domain name. The cost is approximately $100. Frank will email Mary Knight, June Paralis and Liz Crevar regarding meeting on development of the web site.

Sustainable New Jersey: Although the Mayor has requested the BEC take on this project, Carol Jagiello noted that all of the work necessary was done, we are certified and that we are at the Bronze Level – all work done by the BEC in 2014. This was then passed on to Councilwoman Hudson to proceed with putting together a 6 member team. Essentially sustainable NJ is nothing more than green washing / corporate capture of the environment. All grant monies available are still available whether or not we become a part of Sustainable NJ. Carol Jagiello made a motion that the BEC politely decline taking this project back.

Clean Up: Ellen Gerber indicated that a letter from the owner of the River of Beer – on Main Street had been sent to Ross Kushner / PRC to engage local businesses for cleaning up the river and that Ross forwarded it to her since the PRC will be out of operation by the end of 2016. The river clean-up is done the third week in August. The town clean-up (streets) is in May. Frank O’Reilly will go to the Mayor to see about this. Carol Jagiello made a motion that the BEC take over for PRC in this matter which was 2nd by Ellen Gerber with all in favor.

Late Public Discussion

None

Adjournment

Motion to close meeting at 9:35 pm was made by June Paralis and 2nd by Carol Jagiello and approved by all.