

SLH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 4, 2016  
7:00 P.M.

- 1.) Call to Order, Flag Salute, and Open Public Meetings Notification  
Attendance: Robert Merriken, Kat Crippen, Betty Sturdy, Peg Melchione, Lisa Ball-O'Brien, Gaylen Nolan. Gary McLean arrived at 7:12 PM
- 2.) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: March 2016  
Motion/second to amend agenda: On motion by Betty Sturdy, seconded by Robert Merriken, all aye to change February 2016 to March 2016  
Motion/second to approve minutes: On motion by Betty Sturdy, seconded by Robert Merriken, all aye.
- 3.) Communications -- none
- 4.) Housekeeping -- Robert's Rules of Order  
Kat reminded all that the Commission operated under Robert's Rules of Order and asked members to please wait and be acknowledged by the Chair when they wished to speak. There should be no sidebar discussions going on at the dais; only the main topic under discussion. Also, members were reminded of the NJ Open Public Records Act which says that all communications taking place on the dais are subject to OPRA requests; this includes the use of personal cell or wireless devices and any emails, text messages, or other exchanged during a meeting are subject to OPRA.
- 5.) Old Business
  - a.) Sustainable Jersey -- Lisa reported that she and Sandy had set up themselves on Sustainable Jersey. Lisa had Janine print out some projects that she knew we are partially in compliance with and Lisa, Sandy, and Janine will chase down documentation. Lisa checked with Councilman Chris Campion who confirmed that the paperwork for the Municipal Energy Audit has been submitted to Trenton.
  - b.) Earth Day Cleanup -- Kat reminded all that this year's clean-up is scheduled for April 23, 10 to 2, with a raindate of 24<sup>th</sup>. She will ask Jay Delaney to put it on the sign in front of the school and will send files of the flyer to all members. She asked that if everyone printed it out and put up just one, we would get good coverage. She will also submit the information to the Coast Star.
  - c.) Parks Update -- Kat updated everyone on Councilman Art Herner's plans for the parks: this included plantings at Allaire Road, leaving drainage ditch along the Nolan property but extending the fence there, installing the parking lot, and adding white pines to the Grove area. Gaylen noted there is increased use of Allaire Road and said to let the Councilman know to not take any other trees down including the dead ones. She noted there are at least a dozen deer starting to congregate in Fletcher there. Gaylen said the owls are not in evidence; Gary said they are down in his neighborhood off Old Mill Road.  
  
Kat noted that she discussed with Green Acres about the funding; Gaylen noted about the use of historic buildings. Gary felt it was an appropriate use of the funding. We need to set up a meeting with everyone there to get on the same page, including input from Green Acres.
  - d.) Natural Resources Inventory -- As Nancy Maclearie Hayduk was not in attendance, this is tabled until the next meeting.

- e.) Osprey Nesting Pole installation by JCP&L – Kat noted that since the ospreys had returned to the pole on Warren Avenue and were actively nesting, there was little to be done this year. She said she would continue to follow up with Mr. Delaney and the JCP&L representative to see if a pole could be installed around Black Creek.

6.) Voice of the Public

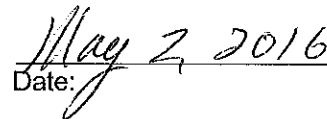
Maureen Carroll, 808 Allaire Road, member of Spring Lake Garden Club, spoke about the Fletcher property. She noted she'd grown up near Brooklyn Botanic Gardens where they have smaller gardens for various specialties. She felt that one which would be a good idea was a garden for the blind, especially for seniors. She discussed access issues. She said it would use raised beds to avoid maintenance / upkeep problems. She felt there needs to be a holistic approach and it should be designed to fit into the overall plan. There could also be sensory gardens for touch, taste, and sound. They should be interactive with nature, attract butterflies and pollinators. The gardens would be low maintenance and deer resistant. The benefits are serene garden areas for locals and seniors. There could also be an increase in green areas for local wildlife. The gardens would be good for young children who can care for gardens. There is no need to have soil tested if raised beds are used. There would be a walkway to direct people on pathways (cinder path). She felt the space is uninviting as it is now and there is a need for seating, wheelchair / guide dog accessible, braille labels, a water feature in the center. Windchimes should be added for sensory appeal. The project would be completed in stages with or without community participation. She said that much money is available, it would be publicly funded for the disabled and that the municipality would come up with funding. She noted that the problems would be in preparation and precise planning, DPW involvement, water department, and submitted to the Commission some suggestions / plans. Kat noted that the Commission had already worked with the Master Gardener program who had submitted designs for a butterfly garden and a wildflower garden and that the Spring Lake Garden Club had indicated an interest in working on these projects.

Rita Murphy, Route 71, spoke on ADA accommodations, mulch mats and service dogs or miniature horses. Moby mats are mats over mulch for wheelchair accessibility.

7.) Adjournment

Motion/second: On a motion by Robert, seconded by Betty, all aye. Meeting Adjourned 8:00 pm.

  
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Kathleen Crippen, Chair

  
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Date: