

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

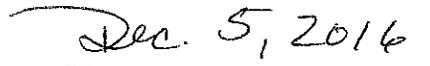
- 1.) Call to Order, Flag Salute, and Open Public Meetings Notification
Attendees: Sandy Denison, Lisa Ball-O'Brien, Robert Merriken, Kat Crippen, Nancy Maclearie Hayduk, Gaylen Nolan, Peg Melchionne
- 2.) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: October 3, 2016
Motion/second: Accepted on a motion by Robert Merriken, seconded by Gayen Nolan, all voting aye.
- 3.) Communications – Janine will be reorganizing space on the Borough website to include all meeting minutes including the Environmental Commission minutes and Kat will be working with Janine to provide these.
- 4.) Old Business
 - a.) Sustainable Jersey – Sandy gave a farmer's market follow up; Allaire Farms wanted to do the market for 2 days but was concerned over what to do with the food because it wouldn't be secured outside. Other markets do not hold it over night. There was a concern about leaving it outdoors because of the number of animals in the area. Would it be possible to keep it in the Borough building overnight? Kat will speak with Chief Petriken on this. We will work on putting out a call for volunteers of all ages to work on launching the market for Memorial Day; it can be as large or small as we want. Upper middle schoolers could be connected as well as the high school's environmental club. Sandy will get something together for Monday night's Council meeting.
 - b.) Parks Update – Robert successfully had the water installed at Fletcher; we still need electricity and a water meter and parking. A small clean up was discussed. It was decided that Sunday the 13th at noon and then on 19th for planting would work, if trees can be secured for then. Gaylen reminded everyone plants need to be deer-resistant; currently, there are two bucks rubbing trees there.

Community garden – Lisa spoke with the Shrewsbury community garden organizers. They have a committee that meets monthly. They charge \$25 for a plot with yearly renewal. She has a call in to speak with the committee chair for more information. The non-resident fee is higher. They have a trust fund, shed and tools, and an agreement. Kat spoke with Paul Gleitz at Monmouth County Parks who said that Monmouth County residents do need to have an opportunity to use the garden. Lisa explained that in Shrewsbury, they offer the plots first to residents, then on a specific cut-off date, offer the remaining plots to anyone.
 - c.) Site Plan Review – there were no site plans submitted for review this month.
 - d.) Natural Resources Inventory – GIS mapping would be biggest cost; Nancy is still following up on this. She has formula from ANJEC for the map and will see if the county can generate what we need.
 - e.) Open Space Inventory Update – Kat will follow up with Gary
 - f.) Proposed Ordinances – dogs. Much discussion took place on the proposed changes to the ordinance language. Nancy felt we should change "properly leashed" to state a six-

foot leash and no retractable leashes. Dogs should be licensed with proof available if the owner is asked for it. Robert felt maybe Fletcher should be dog-free; he felt Fletcher was for all people and should have some restrictions. Kat said we can add some language that says no dogs in the landscaped garden areas, picnic areas, etc. If we are updating the ordinance, we need to do a sign survey and see what is needed. Proper signage and owner education will be needed if the Council wants to make the changes.

- 5.) Voice of the Public – Rita Murphy, Route 71, said she had originally been excited about being able to walk her dogs in the park but realize that for her, personally, it meant crossing Route 71 twice, going and coming back, to get to the nearest park. She asked if there couldn't first be a trial period of the changes, maybe in Bicentennial Ocean Road Park. She said people don't use mutt mitts as they are supposed to and won't clean up after their animals. She felt installing new mutt mitt stations would only create new problems. She said that Asbury Park and Spring Lake had done their dog ordinances as a one-year test program. Nancy agreed that this might work. Sandy pointed out that no one is adhering to the law now and making a change would be a chance to do some education. Gaylen said if you do a "test program," it really doesn't apply because there are no metrics and no outcome. Nancy said you then put in a sunset clause to the ordinance so it just automatically expires and do a trial period for 3 months, 6 months, then a year and let the Council re-pass the ordinance every time. Gaylen said she was satisfied with the way Kat had written the proposed changes and said she would be happy to go with that. Sandy said we could do some sort of education program at the roll-out and maybe give out the detachable "poop bags" for leashes to the people who get the dog licenses. She felt that allowing people to walk their dogs in the parks would drive people to be a more responsible dog owner.
- 6.) Adjournment: On a motion by Robert Merriken, seconded by Sandy Denison, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM


Kathleen Crippen, Chair


Date: