

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

GREEN TEAM MINUTES

December, 9 2014

ROLL CALL:

Canellis [x] Hance [x] E. Rubino [] Parikh [x] S.Rubino [x] Black [x]
Resko []

Marta Blumberg from the Garden Club and Selena Adrianzen from the Girl Scouts also attended the meeting. Selena was accompanied by her parents Dorris & Stuart Fine.

Marta began the meeting with a discussion on recycling of bottle caps and advised that Aveda no longer accepts bottle caps. Marta mentioned that she had researched other options for recycling of bottle caps, however was unable to find an organization that would recycle them. She did speak about Terracycle, an organization that upcycles and recycles. She suggested that the Borough as whole select one item, or the school select an item for recycling. Based on the amount of product recycled, the Borough/School would receive points to redeem at Terrcycle.com for products created out of recycled items. Bill Hance and Shelini Parikh thought this may be a great program to implement in the schools system and indicated they would reach out to Dr. Resko, the superintendent.

REPORTS:

A. CERTIFICATION

The Green Team agreed to apply for Silver Certification next year and submit the application by June 7, 2014.

B. APPROVED BUT WILL EXPIRE

1. Home Performance with Energy Star (30 points) - approved and will expire by 12/31/14, unless we show proof this has been implemented.
2. Environmental Commission (10 points) will expire in 5/2015. The Green Team will have to obtain meeting minutes from the Environmental Commission to show that they are still active in the community.

C. PENDING ACTION ITEMS

1. Prescription Drug & Safety (10 points) - Need pictures or email from Chief Cina confirming the event. Shelini Parikh will follow up on this item.
2. Create a Policy- "Grounds & Maintenance Policy"- (10 points) we need to have it adopted. Bill Hance will follow up on this item.
3. Open Space Plans- (10 points) - Comments were "Please provide links or upload documentation for this action. A current Open Space Plan must have been completed in the past six years and contain the 10 items listed in the "What to Do" section. The OSP must be adopted as part of the Master Plan for the Borough." Bill Hance suggested that Shelini Parikh could follow up with the Engineering department to verify if the Open Space Plans have been updated.
4. Rain Barrels (10 points) - Need to be moved under the Water Conservation Outreach program and we need to demonstrate that the barrels have been placed and that we have implemented an outreach program as well. The Green Team discussed the placement of rain barrels with the department of public works and agreed that it didn't make sense to install the rain barrels at this time due to inclement weather. It was agreed that the rain barrels should be installed in the spring. Diana Canellis mentioned that a CocaCola warehouse in PA can provide free barrels that can be converted into rain barrels. Cameron Black mentioned that Richard Kess-hoff the owner of Coconut flavor also offers barrels for free.
5. Anti-Idling (10 points) – Need to provide pictures and map.
6. Green Building Policy Resolution (5 points) - Comments were: The resolution looks good, but it needs to be made available, including posting to the municipal website and you must provide evidence of this. Bill Hance indicated he could follow up on this item.

7. Home Performance with Energy Star (10 points) - We need to show proof of an outreach program. Shelini Parikh volunteered to follow up with Samantha at Sustainable New Jersey to find out what information is required for this action item.
8. Climate Adaptation (20 points) - We need to complete the getting to Resilience Report available at prepareyourcommunitynj.org. Shelini Parikh advised that this portion must be completed by a Borough Engineer or OEM official.

C. NEW ACTION ITEMS

1. Tree Planting Program (10 points) - Arbor Day- Tree Seedlings Initially the Green Team agreed on purchasing 400-500 seedlings and distributing them at Arbor Day. Heidi Rubino and Dianna Canellas had mentioned concerns regarding the deer eating seedlings. Bill Hance and Shelini Parikh advised that the Green Team select deer resistant trees. Cameron Black and Marta Blumberg from the Garden Club volunteered to review the tree list and provide recommendations for deer resistant trees.
2. Animals in the Community Education Program (10 points) – The Green Team discussed this grant and the possibility of implementing an educational program for school aged children regarding environmental issues. Heidi Rubino suggested that the Green Team provide outreach programs to school aged children regarding deer population management. Shelini Parikh disagreed and believed it was inappropriate to discuss deer control for elementary school aged children. Shelini Parikh suggested Heidi reach out to the Wildlife Committee that is in charge of the Borough's Deer Program and possibly pursue an outreach program for the adults of the community.
3. Green Fair (10 points) - Hold a Green Fair-The Bonner Institute is offering assistance for a onetime event. The Green Team decided that this is an action item worth pursuing. Dianna Canellas suggested that we host a Green Fair the same day as a Farmer's Market. Bill Hance and Shelini Parikh indicated that based on previous conversations with the Police Chief, it was advisable that multiple events not be held on the same day due to traffic and safety concerns.
4. Community Outreach Program (10 points) – Based on the discussion that surrounding animals in the community, it was decided that Heidi Rubino would pursue an educational outreach program regarding Deer Management.
5. Recycled Materials and Composting (10 points) – The Terracycle program would qualify under this program
6. Farmer's Market 2015 (10 points) - Shelini Parikh discussed the difficulties with set up of the Farmer's Market and requested assistance from the Green Team members. Reducing the frequency of the Farmer Market sessions from 6 to 3, was discussed. Bill Hance indicated that vendors would not be willing to participate for 3 sessions and that the Green Team was very lucky that we were able to retain the vendors we did for a 6 session market. Bill Hance indicated that most Farmer's Markets run from May to November every week.

D. FUTURE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

1. PSE&G Grant- Not discussed at the meeting due to time constraints.
2. EnviroKidz Grant- Shelini Parikh explained the grant to the Green Team. Dianna Canellas advised that an owl & snake program may be beneficial to school aged children. Shelini Parikh requested that Dianna Canellas complete the grant application. Dianna Canellas indicated that she would not be able to complete the application in a two week time frame since she anticipates a busy schedule with the holiday's approaching.
3. Community Garden- Selena Adrianzen made a presentation regarding a Girl Scout Silver award she was pursuing and indicated that she would like to work on a community garden at Camp Endeavor. She explained that through the Girl Scouts, she is able to solicit for supplies, materials and labor. She is not permitted to solicit monetary donations. Shelini Parikh advised that there was a community garden started by a different Girl Scout troop which is located at the library. Selena could possibly maintain the community garden at the library. Selena's mother Dorris Fine stated that Selena would like to pursue a community garden at Camp Endeavor. Shelini Parikh and Bill Hance advised that Selena should put her request in writing and address it to Mayor & Council.

F. OATH OF OFFICE-

Dianna Canellas signed the Oath of Office.

G. COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER TOWNS AND COUNTY & SCHOOLS-

The Green Team was unable to discuss this portion due to time constraints.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45PM. The next meeting date was not decided.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelini Parikh/ Administrative Assistant