

Frenchtown Environmental Commission
Agenda

6-11-14
7 PM Borough Hall

Attendance: Richard Reilly, Adrienne Crombie, Tom Woodruff, Pete Palac, Joel Boreik, Warren Cooper

Visiting: Holly Lowe

In audience: Jim Mead, Laura & Tony Greco

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Old Business

Reach out to local Environmental Commissions

Reach out can be accomplished with Frenchtown Preserve Walkabout as context.

Follow up with Stephanie Fox regarding state review of parks

Tom Woodruff reached out to Stephanie Fox and she was not able to direct him. There will be follow up Tom Thorsen to narrow down the information.

Frenchtown Preserve Walkabout scheduled for Sunday, July 13th

When Tom Thorsen creates advertising for the event, Richard Reilly will ask him to channel it to me for email distribution. The event is open to the public.

The Appalachian Trail Club and Sierra Club, surrounding Environmental Commissions, Frenchtown Facebook page, and Warren Cooper's email list needs to be employed to extend invitation to our Walkabout. Secretary will follow up on that outreach.

One invasive species can be enough to direct a large group of people so the organizational and training is minimal for an invasive species walk.

Tom Woodruff added that we need to follow up with Randi Eckel of Toad Shade Farms to ask her to recommend more native plants and additional deer exclosures.

Deer exclosures are created for the purpose of scientific study and to create a place where native plants may again flourish.

New Business

DRBC June 7th clean up report

Tom Woodruff: It less of a litter pick up than anticipated as the Boy Scouts had come through earlier. Focus was shifted to cleaning up parking area between river and railroad track and also the parking islands.

Management of Frenchtown Preserve

Warren Cooper has scheduled a meeting at Boro Hall Saturday 21st from 10am to 12noon to talk about management of Frenchtown Preserve.

Green Team

Richard Reilly: The main priority for Green Team is to enlist members. The purpose of the Mayoral Schmooze was to help integrate other community activities with Green Team actions that can be fulfilled.

Warren Cooper: The Green Team was set year before my mayorship with a mandate to manage green efforts in town and to attain Bronze level to qualify for funding for green initiatives. The Green Team does not have governmental authority.

The Environmental Commission has a responsibility for green initiatives that don't necessarily fall under the scope of the Sustainable Jersey program.

Copies of Ordinance #715 to establish the Environmental Commission were distributed.

Adrienne Crombie's resignation (due to her change of residence) has left spot open for new members to Environmental Commission

Group Discussion around relationship of the Green Team to the Environmental Commission. Specifics are still being finalized. There will be a recurring item on the Environmental Commission Agenda that is a Green Team report. The Environmental Commission member who reports should be an executive member of the Green Team. Holly Lowe suggested that we ask other Environmental Commissions and ask Anjec for advice on this issue.

Environmental Resource Inventory

Pete Palac: Met with Bill Brokaw to take GIS tutorial. A Windows based computer is required in order to download software so that we can recreate our Environmental Resource Inventory. Richard Reilly has new Windows based laptop that he's willing to use for our Environmental Resource Inventory.

An ERI provides a platform for Green Team Actions, as well as being a point earning Action on it's own.

It is proposed that we enlist a high school student to type up the existing Environmental Resource Inventory (dated 1986).

Warren Cooper: an ERI gives the body much greater credibility for making recommendations pertaining to development, etc.

The potential members (Holly Lowe, Laura Greco and Jim Mead) and current members gave a brief self introduction.

Richard Reilly distributed Comprehensive Conservation Plan co-written by John Parke for the Raritan-Piedmont Wildlife Habitat Partnership.

John Parke of the stewardship director of our region from the NJ Audubon Society can provide grant information and valuable resources to help meet our goals.

Ton Woodruff moved to adjourn. Pete Palac seconded the motion.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:30.

Next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for July 9th, 7PM Borough Hall

