



BERKELEY HEIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2016 Annual Report Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission

The Commission met 20 times to review plans and conduct environmental business. Comments were submitted on almost 50 applications to the Board of Adjustment or the Planning Board.

Volunteers for the Environmental Commission gave nearly 500 hours of their time for meetings and work at Peppertown Park and the Community Garden proposal.

In 2016 the Environmental Commission also:

1. Continued the community garden project. The subcommittee will submit its proposal to the Township Council in 2017
2. Met with the Township Administrator John Bussiculo, Treasurer Michel Marceaus and Township Engineer Robert Bocchino to better coordinate environmental issues.
3. Worked with the County to continue care at the walking path along the Passaic River Park.
4. Distributed some 200 saplings to all fourth graders in the Township in connection with Arbor Day.
5. Planted trees at Governor Livingston High School as part of Arbor Day Celebrations.
6. Recommended more than 20 sites for planting trees along the Township right of way.
7. Participated in the June street fair at which we promoted recycling, native plants (with a drawing) and rain barrels. We also promoted the community garden and handed out leaflets about single-stream recycling.
8. Continued with volunteers to weed and then install and mulch mostly native plants in one half of the bed at the eastern end of Peppertown Park. Purchasing of some plants and materials came through the Peppertown Park Memorial fund.

9. Supported efforts to work with the County and the State on desnagging the Passaic River as well as efforts to desnag streams in the Township.
10. Submitted a grant application to the State of NJ for \$25,000 to treat ash trees for emerald ash borer. The grant was awarded and will be implemented in 2017.
11. Submitted an application to NJ American Water for a rain garden at Columbia Middle School. The grant was awarded and the rain garden was installed in front of the school.
12. Sought the agreement of the School Board to install a rain garden at Governor Livingston High School. This was funded by a grant through Rutgers Water Resources, which supervised the installation.
13. Advised the high school environmental club on tree identification.
14. Created a Facebook page for the EC
15. Worked with Watershed Ambassador Katie Ellis and Rutgers Water Resources to obtain funding on a project to reduce stormwater runoff and flooding by installing rain gardens.
16. Continued support of Green Infrastructure in the Township's redevelopment plans.
17. Ordered special fertilizer injection for trees whose roots were cut in Peppertown Park. Perhaps this will help the trees recover.
18. Began work on obtaining Sustainable Jersey Certification in 2017.

In addition:

1. Richard attended the annual ANJEC meeting, which had all-day workshops.
2. Kinan Tadmori applied to join the Commission.
3. Kinan and Christina attended an ANJEC workshop.

Major Goals for 2017:

Obtain Sustainable Jersey Certification

Review tree ordinance

Revise Stormwater Ordinance to include impervious surface mitigation

Commission members were :
Richard Leister, Chairman
Kevin Hall, Planning Board Liaison
Dave Ogens
Ron Loria
Ed Delia
Deborah Plotnik
Kinan Tadmori, Alternate
Helen Kirsch, BOE liaison
Jaime Salazar, alternate

Richard Leister, January 25, 2017