



BERKELEY HEIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## **2017 Annual Report Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission**

The Commission met 22 times to review plans and conduct environmental business. Comments were submitted on almost 40 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 2017 the Environmental Commission also:

1. Obtained Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certification.
2. Met with the Township Administrator John Bussiculo, Treasurer Michel Marceau and Township Engineer Robert Bocchino to better coordinate environmental issues.
3. Worked with the County and volunteers from L'Oreal in June 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 and again in the fall..
6. Coordinated with the tree inspector to plant trees along the Township right of way.
7. Continued with volunteers to weed and mulch mostly native plants in one half of the bed at the eastern end of Peppertown Park.
8. Worked with the tree inspector and contractor to implement the grant to treat ash trees against emerald ash borer.
9. Issued press releases announcing the ash tree treatment and encouraging residents to have their ash trees treated.
10. Advised the Environmental Club at Governor Livingston High School on plants and trees.
11. Cosponsored movie *Seed, the Untold Story* with the Environmental Club

12. Created a Facebook page for the EC
13. Continued support of Green Infrastructure in the Township's redevelopment plans.
14. Continued caring for the planted bed at the east end of Peppertown Park.
15. Promoted the planting of trees along the ROW by asking residents to contact the Township if they wanted trees. More than 20 residents replied.
16. Worked to implement a Sustainable Jersey grant for rain gardens.
17. Worked to implement a Community Garden
18. Gave a presentation to Girl Scout Troop with JCP&L representative on energy (Jaime Salazar organized and joined the event.)

Major Goals for 2018:

Sustainable Jersey Silver 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

Mitchell Gayer

Christine Lewis (left after moving out of town)

Deborah Plotnik

Kinan Tadmori, Alternate

Jaime Salazar, alternate

BOE liaison Helen Kirsch

Submitted by Richard Leister, January 30, 2018