

# **SustainableEHC**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Sept. 25, 2018**

The monthly meeting of SustainableEHC was held at City Hall 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25. Present were Nanette LoBiondo Galloway, Dick Colby, Rick Dovey, Tracey Mulherin, and guests Stephen and Barbara Fiedler of the Galloway Green Team.

There were no minutes to approve.

Galloway reviewed the budget account status provided by CFO Jodi Kahn showing of \$998.33 in the SustainableEHC Trust account.

Galloway updated the group on the status of the Sustainable Jersey certification application. Jodi did most of the work to get the application submitted by the June 3 deadline and provided additional information requested by the revision deadline of Sept. 9. We submitted for 245 points and 150 points are needed to obtain bronze certification. We will be notified of our status in November. Galloway remarked that it is very difficult for small towns operating with a handful of volunteers to pass the muster of the Sustainable Jersey certification process.

Galloway discussed problems with trees dying on the New York Avenue planting site. Not sure if they died due to lack of watering or if they were bad trees to begin with. Jodi will try to get the contractor to replace them. Most of the lost trees are redbuds, which have a fall dig hazard, and cannot be replanted until the spring. Substitutions were suggested, but it would ruin the design of the avenue, which includes mostly redbuds with October glory maples interspersed.

Stephen Fiedler discussed a collaborative effort supporting Galloway Green Team's Sustainable Jersey Hug Grant application for "Friends Along the Mullica" river. The project includes an educational campaign on common issues affecting the watershed. Galloway is the lead agency and is applying for \$4,000 for the 18-month-long project. Seven towns along the river are collaborating along with several environmental agencies to address issues such as climate change, loss of wetlands, wildlife management, and especially litter and illegal dumping. Project includes audio-visual aids, brochure production and social media. The Egg Harbor City Council passed a resolution in support of the application. If the application is approved, participating municipalities will be eligible to obtain action item points for certification.

Galloway discussed another collaborative grant project with the Sustainable Downbeach group, which is interested in purchasing a portable reusable water bottle station to be shared among communities during special events. SustainableEHC will offer a letter of support. If the grant is approved, EHC will be eligible to share use of the filtration system for community events.

The team discussed draft of the Community Forestry Management Plan which was prepared by Forester Ron Farr and distributed to the green team via email. It is an entirely new plan that contains much of the information provided by the green team at the January meeting.

One of Farr's recommendations is to hold a Tree Summit to discuss street trees with stakeholders, including city government. The green team could host the summit.

The team discussed the results of a Tree Hugger's meeting held on June 16. Galloway reviewed action items agreed to at the meeting, including establishing a new Tree Cover Goal with a No Net Loss component, surveying homeowners on streets where trees have been removed, developing a candidate questionnaire regarding street trees in advance of the November election, and conducting a Heat Island Assessment.

Galloway presented a draft tree cover goal which was loosely modeled after the state's No Net Loss Compensatory Reforestation Program. The goal provides three ways to replace street trees lost through streetscape projects. The goal includes asking City Council to approve a policy that would allow replanting on-site, on alternate public property sites such as parks, playgrounds and schools, or by providing funding for residents to plant on their own property. The funding for planting on private property could be derived through state grants approved for streetscape projects.

The group unanimously agreed to adopt the new Tree Cover Goal and send it to City Council for adoption and to the forester for inclusion in the final CFMP.

Galloway announced that three local companies were selected for Green Business recognition. Renault Winery, Leatherhead Pub and Kowalski Tires were recognized by the mayor at the Sept. 13 City Council meeting and presented with stickers they can put in their windows certifying they are a green business.

The team discussed providing funding for Dick Colby's "Walks In and Around Egg Harbor City" brochure. Colby said he gets them printed in color at Stockton. Galloway offered a display stand that can be put in City Hall and the Historical Society Roundhouse Museum. The brochure will be submitted for Sustainable Jersey points in the Innovative Projects action item.

Stephen Fieldler suggested SustainableEHC join other green teams to collaborate on a farmers market next summer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23.