

SustainableEHC

Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2018

The monthly meeting of SustainableEHC was held at City Hall 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23. Present were Nanette LoBiondo Galloway, Hazel Mueller, Dick Colby, Rick Dovey, and new member Anne Tinsle. Also present were Michael Leake and Gemma Bunting of Green Life Energy Solutions of EHT.

There were no minutes to approve.

Galloway reviewed the budget account status provided by CFO Jodi Kahn showing balances of \$1,494.63 in the 2017 Small Grant account, and \$1,429.67 in the SustainableEHC Trust account.

Galloway updated the group on the status of the tree-planting project. More than half of the trees were installed in the fall at Lincoln Park, Cedar Creek High School, Key-Rec and Spragg School. The remaining trees, mostly redbuds, will be planted in spring.

Galloway announced that the \$30,000 Sustainable Jersey grant application to purchase an electrical vehicle and install charging stations at City Hall and the train station was denied. However, the city engineer will apply for grant funds for this action item generated through the national Volkswagen settlement.

Galloway said Kahn informed her that the city received a \$3,000 grant to renew the city's Community Forestry Plan. Kahn will contact arborists to complete the plan.

Galloway announced that the deadline for submitting action items on the Sustainable Jersey website is June 3. Volunteers are needed to complete the action items. We currently have 80 points but must get an additional 70 points approved to retain our bronze certification. Some action items are completed, but more need to be implemented before the deadline, and completed by November to receive certification.

Galloway shared a list of possible action items to work on this year. Dovey said the recycling waste reduction items could be completed. The plan is to add bulky rigid plastics to the collection schedule. Dovey will investigate the best way for the city to do this at the lowest cost possible, if any.

Other items include, conducting a Brownfields inventory (city engineer), Register Ready/Firewise (mayor and fire dept), energy tracking inventory (gas & electric companies), pedestrian/bike plan (free state program), iTree assessment, green purchasing resolution. Galloway will contact Sustainable Jersey to see if they would consider an innovative project supporting Downbeach green teams in their efforts to keep the beaches, bays and oceans free of plastic bags. Project would include adopting balloon release ban, single-use bag ban or fee ordinance. Would include showing film and conducting educational campaign encouraging the use of reusable bags. Funding is available to purchase reusable bags.

Galloway introduced Gemma Bunting and Michael Leake who talked about the NJ Comfort Partners residential energy efficiency program provided through Green Life Energy Solutions, which could provide weatherization and energy efficient appliances, etc. for residents who qualify. It was agreed that SustainableEHC would conduct a community event for residents to learn more about the program.

Galloway said she would use Sustainable Jersey funds to purchase marketing materials, such as a tent and tablecloth that can be used at any events we hold.

Earth Day is April 22. Dovey suggested collaborating with Cedar Creek High School to man a table during the event.

Colby requested the meetings be held later in the evening, so our next meeting will be at 7 p.m.

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

The next meeting will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27.