

SustainableEHC

Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2017

The monthly meeting of SustainableEHC, rescheduled from the regular meeting date of Feb. 28, was held in at City Hall p.m. Tuesday, March 7. Present were Nanette LoBiondo Galloway, Mary Ann Rogers, Hazel Mueller, Dick Colby, Tracey Mulherin, Aysia Gandy and Anastasia Blair.

Galloway welcomed Blair, who was visiting from Galloway Township to learn more about how students at Absegami High School can serve their community in the way of sustainability.

Mueller motioned to accept minutes of Nov. 22, 2016 meeting; Rogers seconded; all approved.

Galloway reviewed the budget account status. After ordering anti-idling signs, the account has a balance of \$1,147.74. One farmers market fee of \$175 has been received from Busy Bees. Jenn Williams, who could not attend the meeting, reported she has a second vendor who is interested in selling upcycled jewelry and crafts.

Galloway reported that both Egg Harbor City and Mullica Township approved holding the farmers market at Butterhof's Shady Brook Farms. Stockton University is interested in forming an internship program where student can learn how to establish a farmers market and develop a relationship with a local farmers to promote sustainable agriculture. The intern will help our team set up and break down during the market, sell organically grown produce from the university farm (to be coordinated with Al Butterhof), and help us promote the market in the community. Galloway suggested the intern could help us get students to play acoustic music during the market. We will pay a small stipend, yet to be determined based on vendor applications received. There is a possibility we can have a yoga practice on the farm during the market. Galloway asked members to be on the lookout for vendors who might be interested in coming to the market. A minimum of 12 vendors is needed to make it a successful venture.

Galloway updated the group on the slow process getting a tree planting and maintenance plan prepared. CFO Jodi Kahn has asked city engineer Remington, Vernick and Mickey Riggins to submit proposals. Mark Demitroff was asked to submit a proposal in November. Karen Twisler of RVW said she should have something early next week. There was a discussion about planting trees at Cedar Creek High School. Rogers said that she would refrain from calling her contact at CCHS until the mayor and city council decide if we will be permitted to plant trees in the right of way along New York Avenue.

Galloway announced that Atlantic City Electric has free trees available, and she has posted a press release on the SustainableEHC website and Facebook page. We will also receive 100 tree saplings to distribute to the community. Trees must be picked up at Atlantic County Soil Conservation District Office 6260 Old Harding Highway in Mays Landing 609-625-3144 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 31. A volunteer is needed to pick them up. They can be distributed at the Rain Barrel Making Workshop on April 4, or at City Hall.

Galloway informed the members that anti-idling signs will soon be installed and an anti-idling pledge was received from the school district. The EHC Police Department will distribute brochures to those caught idling near the signs. Brochures are available at City Hall.

Galloway informed the members that she applied for a \$2,000 small grant to cover operating expenses, including market manager/internship stipend, reusable bags, anti-idling signs, a new tent for the market, printing of brochures, website design and hosting and print and web advertising. Recipients will be announced by April 11.

No one volunteered to staff a table at ACUA Earth Day, so we will not be participating this year.

Gandy talked about the rain barrel making workshop scheduled for 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 4 at the EHC Community School. Galloway asked Gandy for help setting up a composting workshop and a native plant workshop leading up to June, which has been designated Native Plant Month by the NJ Legislature. Gandy said she could do a talk on planting a rain garden. Colby suggested contacting Keith Buckmaster, the horticulturalist who works at Harborfields, who can be a resource for our sustainable gardening programs.

Galloway announced that the deadline for submitting action items on the Sustainable Jersey website is June 4. Volunteers are needed to complete the action items.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 28.