

## **SustainableEHC Meeting Minutes Dec. 1, 2015**

SustainableEHC held its regular monthly meeting 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1 at City Hall. In attendance were Nanette LoBiondo Galloway, MaryAnn Rogers, Dawn Schrieber, Donna Connor, Lou Madonia, Jane Mattson, Rick Dovey, Jenn Williams, Alycia Garcia, Mayor Lisa Jiampetti, Jeanne Mohr Williams and Dick Colby.

Rogers motioned to accept minutes of Oct. 27 meeting; second by Garcia; all approved.

Galloway introduced Donna Connor of Mullica Township, who gave a presentation about the Earthship Education Center project being done at the ACUA water treatment plant location in Atlantic City. The building will be completely off the grid, employing passive solar design concepts and building products available in the landfill, such as tires for the walls. Project is in process of receiving building permits, and organizers are seeking funds for the demonstration project. It will be heated and cooled to 70 degrees year-round, include solar panels, and operate at no cost after it is built. The 1,200 square foot building will be built by volunteers starting in spring, and be used as an environmental education center when completed.

CFO Jodi Kahn, who was not in attendance, provided financial updates of SustainableEHC accounts. The AtlantiCare Farmers Market grant is depleted; Sustainable Jersey capacity building grant has a balance of \$934.75; and the Farmers Market/Reserve for Community Events account has a balance of \$657.41.

Galloway reported that the group is receiving great press lately, and she plans to get something about group activities in the local newspapers at least bi-monthly. The next press release to go out will be on holiday electronics recycling at the Public Works yard on Buffalo Avenue. Anyone getting rid of old electronics is encouraged to use the recycling depot.

Galloway thanked Kahn for all of her hard work posting by the deadline the updates needed for our Sustainable Jersey certification application. It was a tedious, last minute process to do the updates, Galloway said. We should be notified if our application is approved for bronze certification by mid-December. Galloway will contact everyone to share the good news, and prepare another press release announcing the award.

Galloway discussed the success of the Farmers Market, and requested input on the fee schedule for next season. The group agreed it would be \$125 for returning vendors who pay before Dec. 31 and \$175 for all vendors after Jan. 1. She will notify Kahn for City Council to approve at its next meeting, and existing vendors, so they can realize savings by committing early to next year's event. Galloway said to make the market better next year, everyone should be involved in conducting events and activities during the market. Ideas included entertainment, pie making contests, trivia, educational programs and feature a vendor of the week.

A lively discussion ensued about the group's tree planting goal. Galloway suggested the top priority should be working with the city's veterans groups to get 22 trees planted in Lincoln Park.

Garcia said administrators are on board for an Arbor Day tree planting project at the Charles L. Spragg School to honor Gavin Pabst, a student who passed away earlier this year.

Watershed Ambassador Mattson stressed the importance of planting a rain garden somewhere in the city to protect the Mullica watershed. Galloway suggested this be done at the EHC Community School, as a rain garden was part of the school district's plans when the school was built. Galloway said Mattson should work with the school district on this project.

Mattson will work to get a speaker for a tree planting workshop in early spring, and will conduct a rain barrel building workshop closer to the summer months. Galloway suggested using the school's multi-purpose room for the rain barrel workshop, and City Hall for the tree planting workshop. Madonia offered to use his truck to transport the barrels from Mattson's home in Ocean County to the school.

Galloway passed around a mockup of a tree planting brochure. Colby said he would provide more information for the brochure. He also agreed to come up with a short list of appropriate trees for residents to plant on their properties that could be included in the brochure.

The "Tree Huggers" Sub-committee set 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29 as a meeting date to iron out details and come up with a game plan for these projects. Fundraising and grants will be discussed at that meeting.

Galloway announced that Michelle Bellinger would like to plant a pollinator garden at Peace Pilgrim Park to ensure vegetables planted in the community garden are pollinated to produce fruit. She will work with Candace Negrón and Master Gardener Anthony, who maintains the gardens, on this project. Galloway stressed that the garden should be hardscaped to prevent Public Works crews from mowing them down.

The group discussed having another Green Drinks event at Joseph's at the Tuscany House in mid-January. Galloway will set that up.

The next meeting will be held 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26 at City Hall.

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