

# **SustainableEHC**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Nov. 27, 2018**

The monthly meeting of SustainableEHC was held at City Hall 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018. Present were Nanette LoBiondo Galloway, Tracey Mulherin, Stephen and Barbara Fiedler of the Galloway Green Team, Hazel Mueller, Mullica River Watershed Ambassador Naomi Jainanne, Steve Grabel, Councilman Angelo Lello and Councilwoman-elect Robin Sefton.

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, which will roll over into 2019. Galloway said the group would purchase pens at a nominal cost to use for marketing purposes.

Galloway informed the group that SustainableEHC received Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certification at the annual Luncheon held at the League of Municipalities conference in Atlantic City. We submitted for 245 points and received credit for 235 points. Only 150 points are needed to obtain bronze certification. Galloway said Sustainable Jersey recommends applying for certification on an annual basis so the certification period is always good three years out.

Galloway announced that the city applied for a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey Gardiner Environmental Fund grant to pay city engineer Remington, Vernick and Walberg to conduct a solar installation feasibility study. We will be notified if the grant is approved sometime in December.

Galloway notified the members about a private grant opportunity that could fund an electrical vehicle charging station. CFO Jodi Kahn has been in touch with a North Jersey fragrance company that was fined by the DEP. The DEP will allow the company to use a portion of its fine to fund charging stations in towns that were not previously awarded grant funds offered by a state agency.

Galloway shared information about the possibility of applying for two Sustainable Jersey grants in January. One would be for \$2,000 to fund Green Team operating expenses, and a second \$10,000 or \$20,000 grant could fund a larger project, such as the Brownfields Inventory and Brownfields Marketing Plan action items.

Stephen Fiedler discussed the "Friends Along the Mullica" river project, asking for support for riverfront cleanups that could involve Stockton and Cedar Creek High School students. He is currently working with a videographer to film the riverfront from Hammonton to Atlantic City. He asked for the city's help grading San Francisco Avenue to access Clarks Landing now that tick season is over.

Fiedler asked the group if it would like Philadelphia Avenue and the Egg Harbor City Lake included as a spur on the Northern Loop of the Pine Barrens Scenic Byway. The group agreed the byway should pass through EHC making the Lake area a destination.

Fiedler also shared information about the lovely but invasive spotted lantern fly which is devastating the Tree of Heaven tree, which is also an invasive tree from China. He cautioned members to check their yards for the Tree of Heaven tree and the lantern fly. Galloway agreed to include a seminar on the invasive species as part of the Spring Environmental Series.

Fiedler provided the group with flyers for Habitat for Humanity's ReStore at the Shore, which accepts used furniture donations and resells at deeply discounted prices. Proceeds fund Habitat homes.

Galloway said the final draft of the Community Forestry Management Plan prepared by Forester Ron Farr was distributed to the City Council and is awaiting its approval. Galloway commended Farr for preparing a plan that meets the needs of the city. She recommended reading the document, which contains lots of good ideas and a timeline for projects over the next three years. Galloway said the team could work toward fulfilling one of the plan's goals – conducting a Tree Summit to get city officials, green team members and the public on the same page regarding street trees. Funding is available to host the summit, which could be held at an area church.

Galloway briefly discussed the tree cover goal approved last month which includes a No Net Loss Compensatory Reforestation component. The document was sent to City Council, but no action has been taken to date.

Galloway shared a list of approved action items, and a long list of actions that could be tackled in 2019. Top of the list is the Brownfields action items, which could provide development opportunities in the future. Lello suggested the city develop a composting station at the old air field across from the lake. Leaves could be composted into mulch and brush into chips to be provided to city residents at no cost. Galloway would also like to see volunteers tackle a Heat Island Assessment, which would support maintenance of the city's tree canopy.

Lello said that the City Council seated in January would likely provide more support for green team efforts.

Upcoming events include a Shade Tree Seminar: Right Tree-Right Place, 8 a.m. to noon Friday, Dec. 7; Grants are Greener webinar, 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10; Community Solar in NJ webinar, 1 p.m. Dec. 12; Hammonton Green Drinks Holiday Edition, 7-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7 at Rocco's Townhouse.

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

The next meeting will be held 6 p.m. Jan. 22, 2019.