

SustainableEHC
Meeting Minutes
Oct. 27, 2015

The Oct. 27 SustainableEHC meeting was held at City Hall beginning at 6 p.m. Those present included Nanette LoBiondo Galloway, Mayor Lisa Jiampetti, Councilwoman Hazel Mueller, Diane Moore, Alyshia Garcia, and new members Jane Mattson, Mary Ann Rogers, Jenn Williams, John Rupp.

Nanette LoBiondo Galloway welcomed new members and asked everyone to introduce themselves and what brought them to the meeting.

Following the round robin, motion was made by Mary Ann Rogers, seconded by Diane Moore, to approve the minutes from the Sept. 27 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

AmeriCorps Mullica River Watershed Ambassador Jane Mattson provided information about the Watershed Ambassador program, and said she was looking forward to helping SEHC with its mission.

Galloway read CFO Jodi Kahn's financial report, which indicates the \$1,000 AtlantiCare grant for the Farmers Market was depleted. There is \$934.08 remaining in the \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey capacity building grant; and \$534.75 in the SEHC trust fund, which includes fees and expenses for this year's Farmers Market.

The group talked about the possibility of conducting a fundraiser to bolster our budget for next year. Two ideas emerged – doing a Souper Supper in January or February, or selling LED light bulbs. Pre-orders would be taken for four LEDs at a cost of \$10 and delivered to a location for pick up by purchasers. The group would receive \$5 for every kit sold. The program is underwritten by the BPU to encourage the public to reduce energy consumption. More information is needed.

Galloway informed the group that new members would be appointed by the City Council at its January reorganization meeting. If anyone knows someone willing to serve on the green team, please have him/her contact Galloway.

Galloway gave an update on the status of Sustainable Jersey certification. We currently have 110 points approved, where 150 is needed for bronze certification. We need to have four more action items approved. Kahn is working on providing information for several action items by the deadline on Nov. 22. Several other action items will be submitted before the deadline, including the Tree Hazard Inventory action item worth 10 points for Sustainable Jersey certification. The group discussed establishing a tree cover goal, which is a pre-requisite for approval.

The group reviewed several reports on tree counts developed by SEHC member Dick Colby, who maintains a tree inventory for the city. Colby was unable to attend the meeting. There was a lively discussion about the tree goal, and the group agreed that it would be an achievable goal to work with the community to replace trees lost during the freak derecho storm of 2012, which felled 109 trees. The VFW and American Legion requested SEHC's assistance replacing dogwood trees in Lincoln Park that were planted many years ago to

honor deceased veterans, but have since been lost because of disease. The Parent Teacher Organization has asked for assistance planting trees outside the older section of Spragg School, and Mayor Lisa Jiampetti suggested planting shade trees at Key-Rec playground.

Jiampetti requested that we focus on replanting in specific areas of the city, such as the parks, recreation field and schools. She stressed the importance of not planting near utility lines and in the city's right-of-way. Galloway stressed the importance of planting native species.

The group agreed to conduct an educational campaign to educate the public about their responsibilities when planting trees. Jiampetti said the city would consider developing a form for residents to register tree plantings and receive tree-planting instructions. The green team will work with the city to create a brochure that would include tree-planting requirements, such as planting native plant species, and "call before you dig." Mattson suggested holding a tree-planting workshop for the public. She will arrange speakers.

SEHC agreed to establish a sub-committee to achieve these tree-planting goals. The members will include Colby, Rogers, John Rupp, Mattson and Galloway. It will be called the "Tree Huggers" committee.

Motion was made by Jiampetti, seconded by Rogers, to accept the revised tree cover goal. The motion passed unanimously. Galloway will make changes to the draft document and forward it to the members before posting on the Sustainable Jersey website.

Galloway invited everyone to attend the upcoming Thanksgiving Farmers Market, 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at Lincoln Park. If it is very cold, Galloway will need assistance managing the market. New vendors are calling to get in, and many of the seasonal vendors will be attending. One vendor may be taking orders for Thanksgiving pies and dinners.

The group discussed plans for the Trick or Treat event at Cedar Creek High School, Friday, Oct. 30. Mattson will bring the Enviroscape model to demonstrate how non-source point pollution occurs in the watershed, and an educational brochure on how to prevent non-source point pollution, along with our SEHC brochure, will be distributed to parents. Member Jeanne Williams has purchased candy and Moore will be providing the children with instructions on how to make their own nature craft project.

Galloway will not be available on the next regular meeting date. The group agreed to reschedule the next meeting for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1 at City Hall.

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

Submitted by Nanette LoBiondo Galloway