

SustainableEHC

Meeting Minutes

Feb. 25, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of SustainableEHC was held at City Hall 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020. Present were Nanette LoBiondo Galloway, Dick Colby, Tracy Mulherin, Ammie Cramer and Rick Dovey.

The team approved minutes from the Jan. 28 meeting.

The financial report shows \$271.03 remaining in the SustainableEHC Trust account.

Galloway reported the team submitted a \$2,000 grant application to SustainableJersey to fund various activities through 2020. If the grant is approved, programs will include printing and distribution of Colby's "Walks in and Around EHC" brochure, volunteer recognition for fishers who helped clean up Clarks Landing, improving recycling at Key-Rec Field, and the Spring Sustainability Series of events. The series may include a Census/Energy Assistance Mini-fair, screening of Galloway Environmental Commission's film "12 Tenacious Invasives," benefits of Meatless Mondays on the environment, a pet-parenting clinic during the city's rabies clinic, and if possible, a visit to Enlightened Farms.

Cramer said The Conscious Cooks could assist with the Meatless Mondays event.

Galloway stressed the importance of getting residents, especially the underserved Spanish-speaking population, to fill out the online Census. To get more people to attend the event, the team will work with a representative of SJ Gas who will assist with securing partners who offer energy assistance programs. A Phila. Ave. location would be best.

Galloway discussed the city's Neighborhood Preservation Program activities, which could include installation of an electronic sign in the park on the corner of WHP and Phila. Ave., planters, banners, façade improvements and targeted Code Enforcement in the zone. A public information meeting is planned for Wed., March 4 at City Hall. Team member should attend.

The team discussed asking the City Council to fund the purchase of 95-gallon trash and recycling containers for all households in the city. A preliminary estimate for recycling containers was \$75,000 in 2017. Dovey said he would provide the team with an updated cost estimate from the ACUA. He said towns that purchased the carts saw a major improvement in recycling rates, a reduction in litter, and a marked improvement of the appearance of those cities. ACUA provides assistance on the cost of purchasing carts, which could be paid back over several years.

Dovey said ACUA workers have been "deputized" to tag improper curbside recycling containers to help educate residents about the new recycling regulations.

Colby said he plans to survey homeowners on streets where street trees have been removed about their preferences regarding replanting trees in the governor's strip. He will also update his street tree inventory during the summer months.

Galloway suggested the team develop an approved street tree list for those interested in planting trees near the curb line. It is important to plant the right tree in the right location to ensure the city maintains its tree canopy.

Galloway said the city recently appointed a new City Planner and the Planning Board may soon be conducting its required Master Plan Update. She suggested that SustainableEHC should be represented at the table to ensure every element of the Master Plan contains a “green” element.

Galloway discussed having a Green Drinks event for all members of the Mullica River hub teams at Hammerbacher’s for the team’s March meeting. The cost would be \$20 per person and include small bites and desserts, BYO wine.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 24 (location TBA).