

## City of Summit Environmental Commission Minutes, February 8, 2016

Present: Beth Lovejoy, Marian Glenn, Marjorie Fox, Judy Mandelbaum, Ruth Gais, Rick Bell  
Green Team and Guests: Mayor Nora Radest, EC Council liaison Richard Sun, Ashley Miller, Karen Kaplan, Susan Haig

Beth Lovejoy called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM.

**Action items in red.**

Beth introduced the guests.

The January meeting minutes were approved.

### **Committee/Project Updates:**

#### Earth Day Clean-Up, 2016: Beth Lovejoy

Summit resident Matt Cohen has asked if he could arrange for some additional spots to be cleaned during the Clean-Up. He has spoken to Dr. Rubino who suggested the Glenside fields and who was interested in Matt's suggestion of a clean-up along part of the proposed Parkline. Matt has contacted Summit Soccer about Glenside and is working with Beth and the City to do the Parkline area. **Matt will be responsible for recruiting volunteers and supervision for those spots.**

#### Home Energy Audits: Beth Lovejoy

Council has approved using Ciel Power for the home energy audit program. Audits will be arranged directly between homeowners and Ciel and will cost \$49. Thanks to Michael Rogers and Paul Cascais for getting the program before Council. **Amy Cairns, the City Public Relations officer, and Beth will work with Ciel on publicity for the program.**

#### Community Outreach: Beth Lovejoy

Celgene contacted Beth about the EC having an educational table at its Earth Day events on its two campuses on April 21 and 22 between about 11 AM and 2 PM. Patti Schneider Smith has agreed to help. One or two other volunteers would be welcome. Beth has arranged for the EC to have an educational table at the June 12 Farmers Market. **Please let Beth know if you can help then.** It would be nice to have a couple of shifts so no one would have to be there for all 4 hours.

#### Passaic River Trails: Judy Mandelbaum

The JCC men's group will work on the trails on May 22 with under the supervision of Jeff Hankinson.

#### Biking: Beth Lovejoy

Aaron has arranged for the NJ Bike and Walk Coalition to make a presentation to Council on March 1 about the proposed bike depot.

City Administrator Michael Rogers and Engineer Aaron Schragger have asked that the EC take charge of working on a bike plan for Summit. They have asked that a core committee be established, which will include Michael and Aaron as well as representatives from the EC, police, schools, DCP, SDI, and EC Council liaison Richard Sun and Summit resident Ted Tolles. Beth will work on arranging an initial meeting to set goals and objectives.

A discussion ensued about biking in Summit. Everyone agreed that ensuring safety is the most important goal. Ideas discussed include:

- Need to address traffic issues including speed limit

- Need extensive driver and biking education
- Add bike lanes where possible knowing that that would only be possible on a few streets
- Need clear large signage (share the road) and extensive visible paint on the streets to designate shared lanes
- Need maps showing preferred (safer) routes to various locations around town and locations of bike racks
- Need educational flyers
- Addressing biking to schools is an issue
- Stress both the personal health and environmental health benefits of biking
- Make biking the cool thing to do
- Need enforcement of traffic laws and biking laws
- Need to figure out how to develop a culture of biking
- Need to use multiple forms of outreach including, e.g., Twitter, instagram, videos, PSAs
- Create events to educate and to encourage biking
- Increase number of bike racks around town

**New Business:**

Sustainability Forum: Marian Glenn, Susan Haig

Marian and Susan are helping to plan a sustainability forum to be held on Wednesday, March 30 at 7:15ish at CPC. The focus will be on both envisioning what a sustainable community would look like and on what individuals can personally do in their own lives to lessen their impact on the environment. **Marian and Susan will keep the EC updated.**

Trailside EarthFest: Marian Glenn

Marian told members about Union County's upcoming Wild EarthFest on April 24 at the Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside. As part of the celebration, they are holding two contests -- a photography contest and an environmental hero contest. **Beth will send the brochure to Ms. Grimaldi at the high school** to share with the science and photography teachers in case there are any students they think might be interested. **Marian will contact the Visual Arts Center.** Submissions are due by April 8.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Lovejoy

**Remaining Meeting dates for 2016:**

All meetings will be held at 8 PM in the Whitman Room at City Hall.

3/21

4/18

5/16

6/20

No meetings in July and August

9/19

10/17

11/14 (second Monday due to conflicts)

12/12 (second Monday but better for most people)