

City of Summit Environmental Commission Minutes, September 19, 2016

Present: Beth Lovejoy, Marian Glenn, Marjorie Fox, Judy Mandelbaum, John Kilby, Kelly Moughalian, Rick Bell
Green Team and Guests: Linda Seelbach, Annie Schiffer, Anna Tinker, Courtney Cordaro

Beth Lovejoy called the meeting to order at 8 PM.

Action items in red.

Committee/Project Updates:

Home Energy Assessments: Beth Lovejoy

Ciel Power has announced that it has performed 100 home energy assessments as part of the Summit Home Energy Insight Program. With the winter coming, there will be another publicity push this fall. The Ciel website page for Summit is <http://www.cielpower.com/summit>.

Rain Gardens: Marian Glenn

The rain gardens at City Hall and the library have been installed and are beautiful. There will be a presentation about rain gardens for homeowners on Thursday, September 22, from 7:30 to 8:30 PM at the Summit Public Library. This event is free. Toby Horton, Landscape Architect at Rutgers and designer of the Summit City Hall and Summit Library rain gardens, will give a presentation explaining how to create and plant a rain garden this fall. Marian also added that people who attend the meeting could sign up for a free assessment of their property by Toby Horton to find out where a rain garden could be placed. He would also provide a design.

Planning Board/Master Plan: Judy Mandelbaum

Judy commended Topology, City staff, and residents on the work to craft the Master Plan Re-examination. The final product should be released in November. **People can still go to the website or go to a Planning Board meeting to see what's going on and express their thoughts.**

<https://www.cityofsummit.org/556/Master-Plan-Re-examination>

Marjorie was concerned that nothing appeared in the material presented at the second public meeting about recycling and composting. Judy gave her Krzysztof Sadlej's email so **she can contact him directly.**

Site Plan Reviews: Rick Bell

Five sets of plans were reviewed on behalf of the EC for the Zoning Board and Planning Board over the summer, and 3 more will be reviewed in the coming weeks. In addition to suggestions about water management using permeable pavers and about using native plants, Rick has begun to add suggestions relating to green building practices including adding low-flow plumbing fixtures (EPA WaterSense) and energy efficient appliances (Energy Star); recycling building materials; providing a plan to recycle or reuse construction and demolition waste; indicating space for building occupants to store recyclables; designing the project to earn LEED certification; and using photo-voltaic panels, high performance windows and insulation in excess of code requirements.

No Kid Goes Hungry in 07901: Anna Tinker

Anna talked about the Junior League of Summit's "No Kid Goes Hungry in 07901" project, run by Amanda Block. In addition to reducing food insecurity, the project reduces food waste, an important environmental initiative. The project members distributed food on multiple occasions during the summer to Summit families, and on an ongoing basis via the Community Refrigerator Network on Sunday afternoons and evenings out of CPC. The food they

provide comes from local businesses, the Farmer's Market and the food bank. Summit's Community Garden will also provide food this fall.

Bike Plan: Beth Lovejoy

Not much happened over the summer with the bike plan due to the amount of other work going on in the City. **Beth will arrange a meeting with the police to discuss the education and enforcement pieces of the new StreetSmart Campaign.**

Ted Tolles is looking for people to help design a collection of themed bike ride maps to post online to encourage people to ride their bikes or to walk. Please contact Beth if you would like to help.

Shade Tree Advisory Committee: John Kilby

The Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Montclair. The STAC has publicized the problem in Summit with posters and information available during events and at various locations in town.

Summit has 499 ash trees on City property and the STAC estimates there are 3 to 4 times that number on private property. The EAB has a kill rate of 97%, and it is estimated that it will stay in a town for 20 years. The cost of preventive spraying is currently \$9/inch (tree diameter) and the treatment last 2-3 years. The City forester is looking at the City trees to see which ones they will try to save.

The EAB travels primarily through firewood; local vendors of firewood have been informed of the problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 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.

10/17

11/14 (second Monday due to conflicts)

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