

## Westwood Environmental Advisory Committee

Monday March 21, 2011  
Approved Minutes



**Attending:** Chris Balfe, Christine Blaney, Kevin Brennan,  
Gregory Mountain (*Sec'y*), Yash Risbud,  
Michael Ruane (*Chair*), Cindy Waneck

Ruane called mtg to order at 7:40pm

Minutes of previous mtg approved + seconded

### **Green Team (Blaney)**

meeting tomorrow evening

notes from Mar22 mtg emailed from Blaney by end of week included:

Brookside + Bird Sanctuary recommended as sites for community garden

Boro Hall lawn irrigation could be opportunity to replace with rain barrels

### **Sustainable New Jersey (Waneck, Blaney)**

NJSustainability rep met with Waneck + others

willing to help promote rain barrel agenda

has names of contacts in other towns

EnCom discussion re: how to stimulate rain barrel issue

public demo on construction, usage at ?library, ?train stn, ?Pride Day

fact: 18% inc in 2010 charged by Water Co. bc of inc flow of waste water fr Westwood  
rain barrels could lower burden on storm sewers during heavy rain

### **PSE&G Solar 4 All (Waneck)**

statewide the Elect Utility is pressured to lower demands on electric generation

NJ 2nd to only CA in solar electrical generation

memo to Boro Feb 2011 notified intent to install photovoltaic panels on utility poles

2% poles targeted; panels installed > 15 ft above ground; now complete or nearly so

residential complaints = aesthetics, risk of ice falling from panels

EnCom encourages more public info/edu wrt pros/cons of photovoltaic panels on poles

### **Schneider Solar Proposal**

optimal area for pilot installation selected adjacent to DPW

roof of DPW considered not sufficiently sturdy

EnCom discussed w/out resolving concerns re: ground installation vs. elevated poles

### **Stream Turbine (Risbud)**

several decisions pending wrt to

placement of harness -- possibly on existing concrete ledge

how to protect installation during times of high flow rate

how far into the stream (vs. at stream bank) turbine s/b located

permitting

concerns re: compliance with land use + stream encroachment regs  
little to no precedent known on which to base the way forward

### **Earth Scouts (Brennan)**

perhaps previously unknown to EnCom, The Earth Charter is a grass-roots organization "centrally concerned with the transition to sustainable ways of living and sustainable human development." The Earth Scouts is a US program within this that "encourages boys and girls ages 3 to 13 years to become responsible global citizens empowered with the ability to make a difference in their local communities and throughout the world." Brennan described Earth Scouts and its potential for community engagement in issues of interest to the Boro + to EnCom

### **Community Garden (Brennan)**

Brennan described nature of community garden he's involved with in Hillsdale petitioned Town Council for access to public land for community garden property flooded + abandoned following Hurricane Floyd was given to this purpose 10-12 volunteer neighborhood families organized to learn/teach sustainable practices raised-bed vegetable gardening fencing donated locally biggest challenges = water + funding begin Apr 2 implementing design that exploits shade- and flood-tolerant trees Waneck suggested this is impetus for Westwood to re-examine its own possible sites (see previous item under 'Green Team' report: 2 locations under consideration)

### **Pride Day 2011**

Sunday May 22

2010 was EnCom's first presence, was successful + should be part of every Pride Day important that advocates of water barrel issues be present this year

### **New Business (Waneck)**

improving Town's NJSustainability certification as ongoing goal c/b realized in:  
rain barrel awareness (see previous item under 'Green Team' report:  
rain barrels at Boro Hall could be visible demo project)  
general efforts at promoting water conservation

Next mtg: Apr 25

Mtg adjourned 9:05pm