

Westwood Environmental Commission

Monday March 29, 2010

Approved Minutes

Attending: Chris Balfe, Pierre Biscaye, Christine Blaney, Gregory Mountain, Yash
Risbud, Michael Ruane, Cindy Waneck
Absent: Skylar DeHaan, Lukas Bernhardt

Waneck called mtg to order at 7:35pm

Minutes of previous mtg approved + seconded (Ruane motioned; Blaney seconded)

Waneck asked for progress on 3 EnCom priority actions
participation in WW High School Earth Day + WW Pride Day
Green Team
Alternative Energy / Composting

Blaney summarized Mar18 conversation with Mountain re: Earth Day
to evaluate unspecified plans for participating in Earth Day at WW High School
both thought it too late to develop useful, helpful interaction
nonetheless EnCom should soon contact appropriate teachers, administrators
to convey willingness to help on Earth Day or similar activities
to initiate contact that could prove beneficial in future

Waneck described Westwood Pride Day (aka 'Crafters Fair')
scheduled May 23, Veterans' Park / Gazebo area near Train Stn
serves as fund raising activity for WW Heritage Society (Jim Gines, Pres.)
Blaney, Balfe, Ruane, Mountain expressed interest in representing EnCom
Ruane could provide tent
details to be developed at next EnCom meeting

Waneck led discussion of 'Green Team' concept
Green Team is requirement of Sustainable NJ
(see <http://www.sustainablejersey.com>)
Belmar + Cranford NJ are 2 towns with robust Green Teams
(see <http://belmar.com/tag/belmar-green-team/>)
Waneck handed out an Outline of Why, How, Who for a Green Team
why: centralize 'green' experience + knowledge from variety of groups and
provides incentive program for municipalities to go green by enacting
required and elective actions and thereby receive certification by
addressing such issues as global warming, pollution, biodiversity,
buying locally, community outreach, green building, and sustainable
agriculture;
how: form by resolution, not ordinance

who: Mayor and 1+ from EnvCom, Shade Tree Comm, DPW, Zoning Bd,
Finance, Recreation, Administration
Ruane suggested having the number of members flexible for future growth
Waneck will revise and provide mission statement and outline to council

Waneck noted WW 'applied' for Certification last year
SustJersey website shows WW has 70 pts of 'planned' sustainable actions
website info 'out of date', but WW indeed is working towards certification
Ruane asked what Energy Audits have been done on WW buildings
Waneck not sure, will locate answer + report
qualifying bldgs = DPW, Library, TrainStn, BoroHall, RecCtr, FireHs?
High School is not under WW energy responsibility/audit

Risbud reported progress on water turbine test site
project underway at Cooper Union designing small electric power generator
mos. away from possibility of installing test site across Westwood Rd from DPW
at site of present Geol Survey gauging station
goal: feasibility study of providing power to DPW + selling excess to PSE+G

Ruane attended seminar + reported status of small-scale solar-powered generator
installations
efficiencies > 20% are available but at present the most expensive
incentives for commercial + residential use (but not municipal)
structured to recover installation costs in ~2-4 yrs
exact location wrt available sunlight very important; some sites unworkable.
DPW garage is possible location

Waneck reported WW has installed 'Inductive Fluorescent Streetlights' (greenish blue)
use less power than previous energy-saving Sodium Vapor lights (orange hue)
Will report with exact numbers + savings

Balfe reported on composting
remarkable success in community-based program in NYC
1/2 million volunteers brought freezer bags of kitchen waste to Farmers' Market
residential composting possible with in-vessel aerobic technique (no methane)

Waneck reported annual operating budget for EnCom will be in \$3-\$5K range

Waneck said EnCom must select Chair + R'cding Sect'y at next mtg
Sect'y helpful now + Mountain volunteered for this one mtg at minimum
EnCom will formally fill both positions Apr19

Commission agreed to date change of next meeting: April 19th

mtg adjourned at 9:05pm