

Westwood Environmental Advisory Committee

Monday March 18, 2013
Minutes



Attending: Christine Blaney, Elizabeth Muroski
Conor Odell (*Secretary*), Yash Risbud
Michael Ruane (*Chair*), Cindy Waneck

Regrets: Alfonse Carratura

Ruane called mtg to order at 7:45pm
Minutes of previous mtg approved + seconded

Community Garden

-Ruane, Bob Hoffman, and Rick Woods surveyed the site of the planned garden.

-Carratura supplied a site plan of the garden with 36 plots in a 30ft X 70ft area. The committee decided to come up with a less dense garden with fewer plots and settled on 30 plots. The middle six plots will be eliminated from the site plan. The dimensions of the garden can be changed to 36 X 75 feet to accommodate more space between the plots.

-One of the two gates in the plan will be removed and a water tank and a place to store compost will be located in its place. The use of compost for gardening purposes is worth points needed to achieve Silver Certification.

-Ruane found a vendor who will sell the Borough garden boxes for \$124 each, which is under the proposed budget of approx. \$180 per box. Carratura has been in talks with a company in Minnesota whose boxes are taller and have more features than the \$124 boxes but are also pricier. Further discussion is needed to decide on which boxes to buy.

-The DPW can provide topsoil and stone for walking paths.

-Water Issues: Watering cans will probably be used instead of hoses. Carratura is looking into a drip irrigation system popular in Israel with the hope of adopting it here. It uses less water than conventional watering methods and the water is directed down to the soil and the roots below without getting the leaves wet. This reduces the chances of mold developing which can spread from plot to plot.

-Review of Gardener's Welcome Packet supplied by Blaney. Garden guidelines and rules were discussed and edited in the packet.

Blue Acres

-The houses in question have been demolished.

-Blaney contacted Sarah Mellow and Jeremiah Bernstein to inquire about what the 319 Grant did in Denville (what was planted there to return the area to a natural state? Should a rain garden be created there?)

-Ruane found a plan from Colorado that could potentially be used which details the sequence of plants that should be planted in this sort of situation.

Other topics

-Westwood Pride Day is June 2nd. The Committee will again have a program there.

-Geothermal Power: Muroski distributed a packet of information about the basics of geothermal power and its applications for review. Installing some form of geothermal power and creating a solar power array somewhere in town (possibly by the DPW) are long-term goals of the committee.

Homework

-Blaney will rework the Gardeners' Welcome Packet to incorporate the revisions discussed.

-Waneck will draft a press release for the Community Garden.

Next mtg: April 22

Mtg. adjourned at 8:43