

## Westwood Environmental Advisory Committee

Monday Oct 24, 2011  
Approved Minutes



**Attending:** Christine Blaney, Kevin Brennan, Gregory Mountain (*Sec'ty*), Michael Ruane (*Chair*), Connor Odell, Michael Pessolano, Cindy Waneck  
**Regrets:** Chris Balfe, Yash Risbud

Ruane called mtg to order at 7:40pm  
Minutes of previous mtg corrected, approved + seconded

### **Rain Barrels** (Ruane)

2 delivered; installation sites yet to be determined  
discussion favored 1 at the library, 1 at the ambulance dispatch attached to Boro Hall  
note: to date, only EMT vehicles have been allowed use of soapy car wash w/out water recovery  
must consider this issue if rain barrel water to be used for ambulance washing  
see link on town website to [Pascack Valley Waterway Management Task Force](#)

**ANJEC** (Ruane) (Assoc of NJ Environmental Commissions; <http://www.anjec.org/>)  
EnCom was initiated by Ordinance (vs. Appointment), thereby qualifying town as ANJEC member  
this comes with \$50 annual fee; approval to renew by paying 2012 fee was unanimous

### **Solar** (Ruane)

EnCom invited Mike Murphy (PvSoCo; 9/19/11 minutes) to evaluate DPW site for solar installation  
Ruane noted that despite repeated attempts to contact Murphy, there appears no interest in follow-up

### **High School Involvement** (Mountain)

Risbud and Mountain met at High School w/ Murray Perl + Aphrodite Sauter on Oct 14  
EnCom activities were outlined and discussion followed wrt ways to engage students  
Perl would like students doing out-of-classroom science, gathering data, monitoring activities  
Sauter leads the Environmental Club (10-12 students; meet Thursdays at 3pm)  
expressed interest in helping organize a stream cleanup or similar activity  
invited Risbud, Mountain to visit a Club meeting sometime  
both Perl and Sauter interested in exploring possible student involvement in  
helping to monitor local stream flow  
using IR camera for thermal efficiency profiles  
expanding the vegetable/fuel oil project

### **Community Garden** (Waneck)

Waneck described a request for \$10K to Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund  
to develop an organic Community Garden at Westvale Park  
to be matched by \$10K from the town  
prepared and delivered by Bob Hoffman, Cindy Waneck + Lorraine Flannery on Aug 31, 2011  
decision Y/N expected on/about Jan 11, 2012  
if approved, installation would be completed by Sep 15, 2012  
EnCom would work with Seniors and students in providing fresh produce and a learning center  
Brennan would like to explore pros/cons of a similar effort on town land adjacent to Boro Hall

## **Green Team (Blaney)**

energy audit

progress = library installing new HVAC, boilers replaced in train stn, Boro Hall lighting re-done  
responding to query from Pessolano, Ruane noted it's too soon to detect cost savings  
shredding day at DPW was not widely known; more advertising in future is recommended  
plans for a computer + misc. electronic equipment auction are being evaluated

Flood Task Force (Waneck)

the town collected 4 dumpsters of refuse from recent flood damage  
DPW sorted all before delivery to hauler and saved the town money

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

currently we're at 160 pts; need 350 to file for Silver status in Aug 2012

Karen on Green Team is preparing a tally of suitable activities town could enact to reach Silver

## **New Business**

the Town Council provided to EnCom at its previous mtg a memo prepared by Burgis Associates  
comprised comments regarding Sustainability Elements to include in update to Master Plan  
arose from amended MLUL (2008) allowing towns the option to include such Elements  
Master Plan to be updated in 2012 and this is one aspect of change under consideration

Pessolano asked Waneck if it was clear where EnCom recommendations would go

he strongly encourages issues raised in Burgis memo + elsewhere be vetted to public early  
e.g., encouraging LEED building + retrofitting town buildings

setting sustainability examples is praiseworthy but action needs public support at start

Waneck agreed, but noted the Town cannot lead by example in all areas

Blaney commented that EnCom could help with the outreach function to explain Sustain Elements

she asked further why the wording 'in lieu of preparing a Sustain Element' in the memo

she voiced concern this hinted a lack of commitment to effective Sustainability by the Town

Waneck replied their plate is full + details will be addressed in the Spring

she continued that EnCom comments would be helpful + only general issues are needed now  
'word-smithing' the Master Plan will come later

Pessolano understood but cautioned that unintended inflexibility could creep into Master Plan

the sooner any downside of action on Sustainability issues is encountered, the more likely a  
sound, workable + publically acceptable revision can be developed

he acknowledged resident interest/participation will be low until individuals are directly affected  
while early openness could seem at times fruitless, he feels the Town should lead nonetheless

Waneck says the Council needs comments by Nov 10

she stressed the wording of the Burgis memo will not be the final wording of the Master Plan  
in the end, the Master Plan will be broadly phrased

Blaney volunteered to locate a template for Sustainable Elements

she recalls one was prepared by Sustainable Jersey for just this kind of occasion

she will try to find and distribute to EnCom members

Next mtg: Nov 14

Mtg adjourned 9:15pm