

## Minutes of the September 19, 2012, Island Heights Environmental Committee Meeting

Attending: Mary Judge, Margie Laratta, Tara Church, George Kotzas, Betty Wood

Absent: Norman Scheer, Pat Sherwin, Marsha Cudworth

Meeting convened at 7pm. Minutes of the June 20 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept made by Ms. Church, seconded by Ms. Laratta. Because there was no quorum at July's meeting, no official minutes were taken.

**REPORTS** Green Team: Ms. Church reported that the team will hear the results of the grant application from Sustainable Jersey mid- to late September.

Mike LaMana of Hartwood Consulting (?) was a guest reporting on the team's Community Forestry Management Plan that he will be formulating. This plan will be good for five years and its goal is to educate the public to be better stewards of the community's trees. The CFMP will be a strategizing planning document for Island Heights to best protect the trees it has and plan for future strategic planting. Mr. LaMana sought to understand the committee's goals in writing this plan. He recommended we continue with our heritage tree survey, but not pursue a tree inventory of the town. He also recommended our plan should be to encourage homeowners to plant native trees and find homes on public-owned land for tree planting. He suggested including a hard number of trees to be planted on public land over five years, giving us a specific, attainable and measurable goal. He emphasized that the plan should outline having the correct species in the correct location. Mr. Lana will liaise with the Dept of Public Works about the goals of the CFMP. As to the question of specific trees to plant in the municipal parking lot, Mr. LaMana suggested honey locust which reach 45' in height. Ms. Sandra Snow, a master gardener attending the meeting, will research whether this tree is recommended for salty soil since these trees will be receiving the run-off of the bio-swale project. In conclusion, Mr. LaMana will attend the next meeting to solidify our goals and suggest the objectives to be included in the CFMP.

River Grass Plantings: Ms. Judge has obtained the services of the Department of Corrections to remove mugwort from the river grasses under the supervision of several members of the EC team on Monday, September 24. Quotes from several landscapers will be sought regarding edging and mulching this area following the weed removal using triple-shredded, no-weed-seed, 3" thick mulch. Further, the idea of a "carry in, carry out" signage project will be tabled until the next meeting.

Recycling: Ms. Judge distributed Ocean County's latest recycling guidelines. Ms. Church presented a 2-week Eco Challenge from Sustainable Jersey for the first two weeks of October, which would garner ten points toward our goal. She will present the information to the Island Heights School for possible inclusion as a science project and speak to Marsha Cudworth regarding posting in the Post Office.

Parking Lot Medians: The committee authorized Ms. Judge to purchase three trees from Ocean Wholesale Nursery in Jackson for placement in the parking lot at the Municipal Complex. It was decided to have them professionally planted, but the question of irrigation is still an issue.

Single Stream Recycling: Ms. Snow reported she has spoken to Council regarding implementing single stream recycling for Island Heights. Most surrounding towns are already doing this, and it should be a savings for the boro. She suggested a tour of the Ocean County Recycling Center for EC members.

Fall Leaf Composting Event: It was decided that the idea of recycling leaves will be postponed another year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm following a motion by Mr. Kotzas, seconded by Ms. Laratta.