

**MINUTES OF THE ISLAND HEIGHTS  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**Meeting of June 15, 2011**

**Present:**

**Members:** Don Roberts, George Kotzas, Marsha Cudworth, Margie Laratta, Pat Sherwin, Mary Judge.

**Guests: None**

The meeting took place at the home of Ms. Laratta and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. A sign at Town Hall informed visitors of the change of location. A motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2011 meeting was made by Ms. Laratta, seconded by Ms. Cudworth, all in favor.

**Action:** Approved Minutes will be forwarded to April Elley for posting to the Island Heights website by Ms. Judge.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Heritage Day:** No one is available to attend with an Environmental Committee table.

**Sail Fest:** A suggestion was made by Mr. Kotzas to re-visit attending Sail Fest. Ms. Laratta, Mr. Kotzas, Ms. Sherwin (morning only), and Mr. Roberts (tentatively) are available.

**Action:** Members will check their schedules for this September 10<sup>th</sup> event and it will be determined whether or not to attend at the July meeting. Ms. Judge will send an email to the volunteer group to see if anyone is available.

**Budget:**

**Action:** Ms. Judge will check on the status of the Community Forestry Grant and the encumbered funds for same.

**River Grass Project:**

A discussion was held about forming a “Friends of the Island Heights River Grass/Boardwalk” to ensure proper maintenance of the plantings. Mr. Roberts walked the boardwalk with Jon Brodbeck and Henry from Public Works (who will be the Public Works employee working on the boards) to discuss maintenance. The strips of unplanted grass will be mown, but trimming will stop 10’ away from each entrance in order to avoid the plantings. The area from the guardrail to the curb and 2’ in from the street will be trimmed. Distribution of the poster/flyer regarding the “Friends” meeting was discussed (kiosk, Council newsletter, email listserv, bulletin board, Garden Club, Cultural & Heritage). The “Friends” group will hopefully meet one mid-week morning and one mid-week evening. Weeds can be left on the curb and gloves and bags will be provided by Public Works.

Another 100 plants will be coming in July. If the weather is bad, Mr. Roberts will postpone the planting to the fall. Council discussed hiring an outside company to maintain the plantings. A suggestion was made to add more entrances by laying down chip paths. The shaded area under trees will be left unplanted. Ms. Judge expressed her reservations about the loss of public access and asked if the new plants might be used as replacements for those lost to theft or drought.

**Actions:** Mr. Roberts will facilitate the building of the new paths. Ms. Cudworth will create a poster for the first working meeting of the “Friends.” Mr. Roberts will put out the plant markers after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and will coordinate staking out the plants with the Public Works Department. Ms. Judge will send out a computerized calendar for picking the date of the first “Friends” meeting.

### **Tree Ordinance**

All versions of the Tree Ordinance should be sent to Ellie Rogalski.

**Actions:** Ms. Judge will obtain (from Betsy Hyle) and circulate the draft tree ordinance to all Island Heights interested parties for review and request that they attend the July 19<sup>th</sup> Mayor and Council meeting where Mike Lamana will be present to answer questions. The draft email to the public will be approved by the Environmental Committee prior to distributing the ordinance.

Ms. Laratta made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Roberts. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.