

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

GREEN TEAM MINUTES

JULY 22, 2014 - 3:15 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Feigen [] Canellis [x] Hance [x] E. Rubino [x] Parikh [x] Forlano []
Heidi.Rubino [x] Atkins []

Marie Russo, Jane Rappaport, and Traci Jacobus from the Garden Club also attended.
Marie.russo@gmail.com, janerappaport@yahoo.com, woodlandoasis@aol.com(Traci)

REPORTS:

A. Filing for Certification Deadline

Target submission date 11/23/14. Samantha indicated we did not apply in June so technically we would not be able to apply in November, but due to the excessive phone calls made she is aware that the Green Team is working hard. She has allowed the Green Team to submit the application by September 11,2014.

B. Actions already submitted:

1. Create Green Team- 10 Points
2. Hold a Green Fair- 10 points
3. Municipal Carbon Foot Print- 10 points
4. 7. Recycled Materials and Composting- 10 points—Tree mulch qualifies as per Samantha

C. Completed Actions but have not been submitted:

1. Inventory & Upgrade All Buildings (Clean Energy Audit) - 50 points (Need to Upload) BH
2. Open Space Plans- 10 points (Performed in 2006) (Need to Upload)
- 3 Community Paper Shredding Day-5 points (Need to upload) – We are offering support to Greenbrook and also had a shredder available at the Green Fair for residents.
4. Backyard Composting Program-5 points (Need literature and need to upload)-Need to email EC regarding any literature/invoices
5. Energy Efficient Appliances or Equipment-10 points
Certified document stating that all electronic purchases from within 4 months of submission deadline are ENERGY STAR rated. List some of the ENERGY STAR products. (Need to Upload)
6. Tree Protection Ordinance-10 points
Need to provide a link to the Tree Protection Ordinance in web codes, certified copy of Resolution adopting ordinance, certified adopted ordinance, and descriptions of the standards that relate to the Ordinance Structure listed on New Jersey Sustainable website. (Need to get paperwork from Engineering and Upload)
7. Community Education & Outreach- 10 points
Qualifying actions by Environmental Committee: Queen of the Sun Movie, Water Garden Seminar, and literature (Healthy Vibrant Trees, Healthy Lawns, Cars & Air Pollution, Composting, Go Green, Tree Flyer, Tree Preservation Brochure, Water Smart/3 Stages of Drought, Pet Waste, Storm water, Homeowner's Checklist for Clean Water, Bloom Times, and Things You can do...) distributed by Environmental Commission, sent in school Backpack News via email and also posted on Borough's website. Need to prepare material to upload- can include town newsletter, flyer in backyard composting, fb posts. SP prepared documentation for this.
8. Other- Watchung Clean-up Day qualifies under other/creative.
9. Non-Mandated Materials Recycling- 10 points
The Garden Club has bins at the library to collect water bottle caps, which are then sent elsewhere for recycling. The Garden Club has been contacted and we are waiting for some literature regarding the program. Bulk pick up does not qualify. We also pick up Christmas trees and need to verify if this also qualifies. Discussed setting up a recycling bin at Borough Hall. Need to print out from Aveda as to what is acceptable.

D. Open Actions

1. Anti-Idling Education& Enforcement Program- 10 Points

Signs have been purchased, need to identify target areas and have Watchung PD develop enforcement. Get approval for DPW to put up signs at Watchung Square Mall and for Chief Cina to have PD enforce. BH already emailed TEA regarding this. SP discussed with TEA and will speak with Chief Cina regarding this.

2. Raingardens- 10 points

6 rain barrels purchased, however we need to identify areas to place them. Also we need doc documentation with project scope and outreach initiatives. We need to discuss placement with DPW and also create flyers for community outreach, website, and Facebook. . We will provide 1 rain barrel to the Library and one to the high school. SP/BH will speak to DPW about placement. Possible contest for painting rain barrels. Will discuss with Watchung Arts Center and see if they can possibly provide free session of class to winner.

3. Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Ordinance-10 points

Policy developed, but need council to adopt it. Green Building Policy/ Resolution- 5 points- Need to discuss with Environmental Commission. Member of EC was invited to the meeting. This may not be possible due to costs associated with purchasing Green. BH will look into tweaking the policy so it is not cost prohibitive.

4. Recycled Paper- 10 points- Contingent on Adopt a Green Building Policy. We currently purchase recycled paper.

5. Community or School Gardens-10 points

Girl Scout troop 65631 under the guidance of the Garden Club, planted a community garden behind the library of which the produce will be located to local food banks. We have permission to use this action towards credits and will be providing a rain barrel to help support. Will inform the Garden Club of possible future grants. An individual by the name of Peter Hexler has approached the Garden Club to create an Arboretum with native plants. SP will follow up and provide contact information as to how to get this process started. DC suggested Camp Endeavor as possible site. Garden club currently has a vegetable garden, with assistance of the GS troops, at the Library and also a deer resistant garden behind Watchung Arts Center. JR mentioned that there is a youth club at the library that consists of teenagers that would like to assist in projects such as these. They may be interested in joining the Green club or assisting. Marta Blumburg (908-754-464) will be the liaison from Garden Club to the Green Team. Questioned if we can put one at Texier House. DC inquired if we get a letter from Borough Hall with Tax-ID to solicit rain barrels from Home Depot?

6. Farmer's Markets-10 points from August to September 2x – SP did discuss with TEA and Board of Health. Waiting to speak with EB regarding zoning and Borough Attorney. The Garden Club is interested in having a stand at the Farmer's Market and SP suggested we provide free space to the Fire Dept., PD, Rescue Squad, and Green Team to recruit volunteers. Ask local grocery stores for reusable bag donations. Invite Aveeda to put up a tent, provide samples and promote the non-mandated recycling.

7. Grass-Cut It and Leave It Program-5 points- DC, Have printed materials from County available. SP needs to ask permission from Borough to post this information on Borough Facebook page or website as an outreach initiative.

9. Reusable Bag Education Program- 5 points

Contacted ShopRite and obtained some literature on Reusable Bag Program. TF was not present, need to send her an email to follow up on her progress

10. Climate Adaption: Flooding Risk-20 points

Already utilized tool to create map. Need to designate a team that will answer questions from website. BH did email TEA regarding this. TEA said its okay to discuss with Assistant Engineer and OEM and then set up a meeting. SP will contact assistant engineer and OEM officials with the questions and will coordinate a meeting. JR from Garden club suggested that we speak with Cameron Black to see if he can assist with this since he has experience in this area. Spoke with Steve Black 7/23 and he will call back with his son's information.

11. Direct Install- Outreach Campaign to Local Business Community-10 points

Already made 3 or more attempts to contact the contractor designated to our area and have had no success. BH will look into.

12. Energy Efficiency- Home Performance with Energy Star Municipal Program (20 points) and Outreach program (10 points) - Contacted Ciel Power, which offers discounted energy assessments for residents. They have implemented program in several municipalities, and two were contacted (Woodbridge & Princeton) and were very satisfied with the program. Literature sent to Law and Ordinances Committee to review.

14. Grounds & Maintenance/Create a Policy-10 points

Policy developed but need Council to adopt. BH will look into this and will need to run this by DPW.

15. Environmental Commission- 10 points (BH) – Need their annual report to submit. SP will email to obtain annual report.

16. Prescription Drug and Safety and Disposal-10 points – Need 1 more drop off day. We can discuss with police department or Lions Club. DC will follow up

E. Warren Green Team- Invited but did not attend.

F. Environmental Commission- Invited but did not attend.

Respectfully submitted,



Shelini Parikh