

GLEN ROCK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Municipal Building, Harding Plaza, Glen Rock, NJ 07452

October 16, 2012 Agenda

Roll Call

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|---------------|--|-----------------|--|-------------|--|
| Sandy Chapman | | Scott King | | Paul Sharar | |
| Lesley Elton | | Mark McCullough | | | |
| Naomi Gamorra | | Cindy Mehallow | | | |

Call to Order

Site Plan Review – None currently

Planning Board Report – Mark McCullough: EFGAR Study

Public Comment

| Old Business | | |
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| Agenda Topic/Owner | Key Points | Next Action Steps |
| EnergySolve LLC/Paul Sharar | Energy Tracking and management System | Meeting with Lenora Benjamin and Rona McNabola on Wed. Sept. 19 |
| Community Garden Update – Lesley Elton | Update | |
| ANJEC's 39th Annual Environmental Congress "The Clean Water Act at 40...Keeping the Promise" | Andy and Naomi planning to attend | Saturday, October 20, 9:00am - 4:30pm Student Center Middlesex County College, Edison |
| Anti-Idling | Memo to borough employees | |
| Sustainable Jersey Status | Bronze certification achieved! | Publicize achievement of Bronze Certification |
| Shop the Rock/BYO Bag – Andy Curshen | Posters being printed and distributed | |
| Plastic Bag Ordinance/ Andy Curshen | Proposed ordinance and sample letter to retailers were distributed to Commissioners for their review | Review and discuss documents |
| Water Bottle Reduction at GRHS/Lara Jones and Sylvia Rabacchi | Lara is working with GRHS Principal Arlotta to show "Tapped" and install water filtration/ bottle filling stations | Plan next steps |
| Fracking Update from NJ Food and Water Watch | NJFWW is working on getting meetings with Sen. O'Toole, Assemblywoman Schepisi and Assyman Russo to ask them to vote for an override of Christie's | Wednesday, October 24th is our next monthly meeting at Panera Bread, Rte 4 in Paramus from 7 to 9pm. Does GREC want to cosponsor the showing of "Blue Gold: World Water |

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| | <p>veto. We have a meeting scheduled to meet with Assyman Rumana.</p> <p>NJFWW will be screening Blue Gold at the Ramsey Public Library on Tues. Oct. 23 and is looking for cosponsorship from organizations, which means having our name on the flyer and hopefully turning out members of our group. Pascack Sustainability Group has already agreed.</p> | <p>Wars" documentary that examines environmental and political implications of the planet's dwindling water supply?</p> |
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| New Business | | |
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| Agenda Topic/owner | Key Points | Action Steps |
| Leave the Leaves | <p>Elaine Silverstein shared information about this initiative which many local towns are adopting http://www.leaveleavesalone.org/ http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/leavetheleaf/</p> | <p>Need a Commissioner to research this topic and decide if the GREC should recommend this to the GR DPW</p> |
| Cost savings due to Solar Energy at GR Schools/Paul Sharar | | |
| GREC Meeting minutes | GREC required to provide minutes of all meetings | Need to appoint a Commissioner to serve as Recording Secretary |
| GREC Vacancy | Sandy Chapman will be stepping down from his position at the end of the year | Need to recruit a new member. Please discuss possible candidates |
| 2012 Meeting Dates | Need to provide 2013 meeting dates to Borough administrative staff for inclusion on Borough calendar | Agree on proposed dates: Jan. 15, Feb. 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17 |
| Safe Playing Fields Act | <p>The State Legislature is considering the Safe Playing Fields Act (A2412 / S1143) to protect kids from unnecessary exposure to toxic synthetic pesticides used for turf management at day care centers, schools (k through 8th grade), and park playgrounds. The Essex County Environmental Commission passed a resolution urging legislators to pass this bill before the New Year. This legislation has support from 63 legislative co-sponsors (a majority of the NJ legislature), the New Jersey Environmental Federation, Junior League, Blue Wave NJ, NJ Education Association and more. Over 40 municipalities/school districts have already gone pesticide-free on their playgrounds and playing fields, showing this can be done. The natural alternative methods are safer, effective and affordable. Schools will receive training in these methods once the bill passes.</p> | <p>The GREC could adopt a similar resolution or refer it to our local government for passage. View the sample resolution attached.</p> <p>I believe that the GR schools already use Integrated Pest Management and the school fields are relatively if not entirely pesticide-free. A Commissioner could contact GR Schools Bldgs and Grounds Manager Sandy Marinos to confirm that.</p> <p>State legislators need to hear that there is grass roots support from parents, towns and others. Environmental Commissions can provide that local voice.</p> |

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| NJDPES Stormwater Public Education Requirements | Need to complete enough activities annually that total a minimum of 10 points to maintain our stormwater permit | Determine number of points achieved, number remaining and how to achieve by Dec. 31. |
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2012 Meetings

Nov. 20, Dec. 11.

Adjournment

Coming Events:

Prof. Lawrence Lessig, Author of "Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress --and a Plan to Stop It"

October 17 at 7:30pm

Ramapo High School, Franklin Lakes

At the core of our government, Lessig says, is "a legal corruption." In other words: money. The job of politics has been left to a tiny slice of Americans who dominate campaign finance and exert a disproportionate influence on lawgivers as a result. This, he writes, "is a dynamic that would be obvious to Tony Soprano or Michael Corleone but that is sometimes obscure to political scientists: a protection racket that flourishes while our Republic burns. We don't need to destroy wealth," Lessig declares. "We need to destroy the ability of wealth to corrupt our politics."

Lawrence Lessig is the Roy L. Furman Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, and director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University.

Sustainable Jersey Co-Director, Donna Drews, at ANJEC Roadshow

Thursday, October 25, 2012 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Kinnelon Borough Hall, 130 Kinnelon Road, Kinnelon, NJ, 07405

The Kinnelon Environmental Commission is sponsoring an informative program coordinated by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC). Donna Drewes, Co-Director of Sustainable Jersey, will discuss Sustainable Communities and Julie Groth, the ANJEC Resource Center Director, will discuss Gorilla Marketing for Environmental Commissions. This is a perfect opportunity to learn more about the Sustainable Jersey program as well as to learn gorilla marketing techniques. Contact Carol Vreeland at 973-838-5645 for any questions you may have about this event.

Safe Playing Fields Model Resolution

**TOWNSHIP OF _____
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEW JERSEY LEGISLATION "SAFE PLAYING
FIELDS ACT" (S1143 / A2412), URGING LEGISLATORS TO PASS THIS BILL
PROHIBITING USE OF TOXIC SYNTHETIC LAWN PESTICIDES WHERE
CHILDREN PLAY ON SCHOOL GROUNDS K – 8TH GRADE, CHILD CARE
CENTERS, AND PARK PLAYGROUNDS**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Township Council or Environmental Commission of the Township of _____ to promote matters which benefit the health, welfare, comfort and safety of the citizens of the community, and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Senate Bill S 1143/Assembly Bill A 2412, to be known as the "Safe Playing Fields Act," would prohibit the use of synthetic lawn care pesticides on the grounds of any child care center, any school which enrolls children in kindergarten, and any grade between 1st through 8th grade, as well as on playgrounds in public parks, except as an emergency response to an immediate threat to human health, as determined by school officials, in consultation with the local health officer, as appropriate, and

WHEREAS, many scientific studies indicate that synthetic lawn pesticides threaten children's health by increasing the risk of cancer, learning disabilities, asthma, birth defects, and reproductive problems and the US EPA, the Federal Trade Commission and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection prohibit claims as to the safety of a pesticide or its ingredients even if used as directed, and

WHEREAS, children face higher risks than adults from lawn chemical exposure due to their small size, engaging in activities on or near the ground, tendency to place their hands close to their face, greater intake of air relative to body weight, and developing hormonal and organ systems, and

WHEREAS, this bill has been a priority of many environmental groups, children's health advocates, school advocates, and parents who are concerned that children are more vulnerable to exposure to synthetic pesticides, and

WHEREAS, this bill follows the lead other states have taken in banning synthetic pesticides on the grounds of schools, except under emergency conditions. These states are successfully maintaining their fields and playgrounds using non-toxic, natural methods.

And NJ Congressman Rush Holt recently introduced federal legislation, School Environmental Protection Act, that would prohibit synthetic pesticides on school grounds and require organic fertilizers on school grounds, and

WHEREAS, with the proper training, equipment and budget for organic fertilizer and seed, schools can maintain their fields and grounds effectively and naturally without chemicals. Experts testify that the costs of organic field care can match a conventional field care program and save schools money over time as fields require less product input and become sustainable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council or Environmental Commission of the Township of _____ supports the passage of the Safe Playing Fields Act (A2412 / S1143), and urges the legislative leadership to ensure this bill becomes law before the New Year 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie; to Senate President Stephen Sweeney; to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver; to our Legislative District Legislators Senator _____; Assemblyman/woman _____ and Assemblyman/woman _____

_____ ; to the State Senate Environment Committee Chair Senator Bob Smith; to the State Assembly Environment Committee Chair Assemblywoman Grace Spencer; to the senate bill primary sponsors Senators Shirley Turner and Robert Gordon; to the assembly bill primary sponsors Assemblywoman Connie Wagner and Assemblymen Daniel Benson; to the _____ Township School Board; to the New Jersey League of Municipalities; to the other _____ County municipalities; to the New Jersey Environmental Federation (jvickers@cleanwater.org); to the Northern NJ Safe Yards Alliance (Suzanne@NorthernNJSafeYardsAlliance.org)