

GLEN ROCK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Municipal Building, Harding Plaza, Glen Rock, NJ 07452

May 21, 2013 Agenda

Roll Call

Lesley Elton		Scott King		Cindy Mehallow	
Naomi Gamorra		Mark McCullough		Paul Sharar	
Andy Curshen		Sylvia Rabacchi			

Call to Order

Site Plan Review – None to report

Planning Board Report – No report

Public Comment

Old Business		
Agenda Topic/Owner	Key Points	Next Action Steps
May – TBD June -	GREC required to provide minutes of all meetings	Need volunteer to take June minutes
Community Clean Up/Sylvia and Scott	Event occurred. 20 volunteers were present	
Public space recycling program	- Greener Corners GC wants to partner with GREC on a recycling that involves kids, families, and individuals. -This could support our plastic bag reduction effort -GR Recycling Center renovation has eliminated GREEN function and community groups are looking for easy ongoing community service activities.	Discuss at May meeting
ANJEC Open Space Grant	Glen Rock was awarded the grant. Sylvia to provide report on progress and next steps	
Green Trade Show for Bergen County/Naomi	Naomi intended to attend and provide a report on the event.	
Energy Outreach Action/Paul Sharar	Grants available for NJ Home Performance Audits This could earn 10 points under the SJ: Energy/ HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR/Outreach Action	Paul Sharar to recommend next steps
Northern NJ Sustainable Jersey Networking	Cindy planned to attend this event and report back on it	

Event/Cindy		
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New Business		
Agenda Topic/owner	Key Points	Action Steps
"Blue Gold: Water Wars" Screening/ Cindy	GREC cosponsoring this event with the NJ Food and Water Watch. Flyer attached. Wed. May 29 at 6:45 pm at the Glen Rock Public Library.	Commissioners are encouraged to attend and invite others.
Fracking Waste Water ordinance	Mayor has asked for GREC to provide a draft ordinance banning disposal of fracking waste water in Glen Rock	
Paramus Earth Day Fair	PEC is interested in taking a regional approach to issues of joint concern Paramus Council funded reusable shopping bags for all fair goers	Identify relevant, local ECs and confirm interest in a regional meeting.
EC input on design of new mapping tool	The Environmental Analysis and Communications (EAC) Group of the Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy is seeking participation of up to 30 members of New Jersey Environmental Commissions for a half-day session to provide input on the design of an online mapping tool to support environmental and environmental health activities at the local level.	Members of Environmental Commissions who may be interested in participating are asked to send an email as soon as possible to: Karen Lowrie or Jeanne Herb
Americorp Volunteers/David Wright	David Wright email phox1515@yahoo.com	

Adjourn

Local events:

Palisades Interstate Park Hike--Saturday, May 25 at 1 PM

Join us for a 3-4 mile hike on mostly flat terrain in the Palisades Interstate Park on Saturday, May 25, at 1:00 p.m. Moderate pace. Optional potluck barbecue afterward in Hackensack. Bring water, snack, and wear hiking boots or sturdy footwear. Contact Mary Walsh blehlwalsh@hotmail.com for more information or to register and find out meeting location.

Protecting Greater Canyonlands in Utah--Wednesday, May 29 at 7 PM at the Oradell Public Library

There are few enough places left in the lower 48 where we can truly lose ourselves, stand alone and bask in natural splendor. One of them is the Greater Canyonlands region, a stretch of matchless country in southern Utah at the heart of which is Canyonlands National Park. Greater Canyonlands, though lacking official protection, remains one of the last untouched frontiers of the West and one of the largest roadless areas in the lower 48. This is a place of cliff, canyon and valley, of spire and castle, of lush and improbable hanging gardens, of echoing alcoves and amphitheatres.

Greater Canyonlands is large, but its size is no defense against the threats it faces. Proposed oil and gas drilling, tar sands exploration, and potash development—some of which would be within sight and sound of Canyonlands National Park—would carve up this wild landscape, harming air and water quality, fragmenting wildlife habitat, and degrading spectacular scenery.

President Obama has the power to protect the 1.4 million acres of public land surrounding Canyonlands National Park with the stroke of a pen – if we can convince him to do so. Join Jackie Feinberg, National Grassroots Organizer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, for a journey through the Greater Canyonlands region and to learn how you can help protect this national treasure.

This event is being sponsored by the Sierra Club North Jersey Group, the Oradell Environmental Commission, and the Friends of the Oradell Library. The Oradell Library is located at 375 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, New Jersey. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact John Kashwick at jkashwick@optonline.net.

For more Sierra Club events, please go to: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp

March Against Monsanto--Saturday, May 25 at 2 PM in New Brunswick, NJ

On May 25, activists around the world will unite to March against Monsanto. Research studies have shown that Monsanto's genetically-modified foods can lead to serious health conditions such as the development of cancer tumors, infertility and birth defects.

In the United States, the FDA, the agency tasked with ensuring food safety for the population, is steered by ex-Monsanto executives, and we feel that's a questionable conflict of interests and explains the lack of government-lead research on the long-term effects of GMO products.

Recently, the U.S. Congress and president collectively passed the nicknamed "Monsanto Protection Act" that, among other things, bans courts from halting the sale of Monsanto's genetically-modified seeds.

For too long, Monsanto has been the benefactor of corporate subsidies and political favoritism. Organic and small farmers suffer losses while Monsanto continues to forge its monopoly over the world's food supply, including exclusive patenting rights over seeds and genetic makeup.

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/227208470751637>.