

GREC Meeting Minutes 2.12.16

Commissioners in attendance: Lesley Elton, Ben Meyer, Chris Leishear, Sylvia Rabacchi, Mary Jane Surrago

Guests attendees: Mark Huisking, Councilman, Laura Occhipinti, Jay Shapiro

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Minutes of the January meeting were unanimously approved

Local government Bldg Energy efficiency: Ben Myer: we have received updated reports from CHA. Recommendations have not changed. They have added more back up data. The reports are still “drafts” as TRC hasn’t given final approval, which is expected end of February. At that point, a closeout conference with CHA to review findings, ask questions, what are next steps etc. We are probably more interested in the “Direct Install” grants (70/30 funding by state vs. borough). “Pay for performance” is probably not applicable to us. In previous years, Direct Install has paid 100% of the cost (Mary). Recommendations would have to be submitted to the Council by March 17 to be considered for the current year’s budget. Might be able to add a budget line item “Environmental Commissions”. Mary Jane will reach out to Lenora. Ben and Chris (or others) should go in front of Council/Finance committee.

Fleet inventory: Ben is in touch with Bob Tiserio who has the data available to get latest snapshot of energy consumption.

Home Energy Audits: Ben wrote a draft to release to Glen Rock Gazette, Sylvia will distribute it. Send it to Cindy Probert of the Glen Rock Gazette. Mary Jane will send Sylvia the email address. Mike Mulholland would like to have a letter from the mayor to resend it. Rebate has dropped to 4,000. Ten years has dropped to seven years, but still at 0% interest.

Jay Shapiro, Glen Rock Tech Dads, meeting tomorrow night at GR Inn. Can post information on school websites.

Water quality: Laura Occhipinti: Tiered discount for whole house filtration (water softener and filtration), reverse osmosis is just at one tap. She has emailed Dr. Valenti, who put Sandy Marino (BOE facilities) in charge, who got the samples. Sandy would get back to Laura with the results. Glen Rock Mom’s website has collected questions for Ridgewood water. Rich Calbi answered all the questions and Laura/Skip re-posted. Skip Huisking has the 10 min. presentation on his website. Jay/Laura discussed water issues.

Meeting with Ridgewood Water open to the public will be on 2/23 at GR Borough hall.

Sylvia will email Lenora concerning presence of E. coli contamination in Diamond Brook reported by HS Science teacher Mrs Battersby.

Lesley Elton: Is there an ordinance on tree cutting? No, council was split, and item got dropped. Shade Tree committee should champion.

Jay Shapiro. Jersey City has "big dig". \$400K in bulbs. Glen Rock Farmer's Market is biggest voted town improvement.

Community garden may have openings. Lesley will notify us if she has any openings.

New Business:

Green Up Glen Rock Facebook page: Sylvia reported many new Likes following the new Borough calendar initiated by Mary Jane, featuring various aspects on the GREC work

National Park Service: Chris reported of the "Every kid in a park" initiative by the National Park service. Fourth graders and their family receive a free pass to National Parks and federal lands

<http://www.nps.gov/kids/index.cfm>