

## Glen Rock Environmental Commission Meeting of May 20, 2014

### Minutes

Attendees: Andy Curshen; Paul Sharar; Charles Nebbia; Sylvia Rabacchi;  
Mary Jane Surrago (Council liaison); Balpreet Kaur (Guest student)

Minutes of the April 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 meeting were approved by a quorum of 4 commissioners.

Guest Student Balpreet Kaur was introduced to all persons present. Ms Kaur indicated interest in assisting with the plastic bag reduction and/or elimination program.

Ms Rabacchi updated the commissioners on developments concerning Liaison With Schools. Several High School students, including Caroline Geohagen, Balpreet Kaur assisted with preparation of promotional material for Earth Day. The Board of Education has not yet responded regarding the proposal to replace Styrofoam trays with non-toxic biodegradable trays. No response either regarding installation of additional water stations.

Jonathan Pereira's proposal to install a rain garden next to The Source building was discussed. The cost would be \$675. Ms Surrago will raise this cost item at the next Council meeting and suggested that next year a budget for the GREC could be a line item on the Borough budget. Ms Rabacchi will contact Mr. Pereira to determine if he personally would work on the project. Ms Surrago suggested that the DPW could be induced to move any heavy rocks. Commissioner Chris Leishear has indicated his interest in working on this project.

Mr. Sharar advised that the Energy Outreach program was moving ahead well. Ciel Power had 61 confirmed energy audits ordered of which 30 have been completed. The mailing piece has not yet been sent to all 4,000 addresses planned.

The members discussed the Sustainable Jersey (SJ) recertification which needs to be presented in 2015 in order to maintain the Borough's Bronze Certification. An 'Action Choices' plan has been prepared by Mr. Sharar which was discussed at length. The plan outlines the 17 major action headings required by SJ. Many new actions have been added in 2014. Several of these were deemed doable by the Commission as detailed in the Action Choices plan. Commissioners will study all actions and advise Mr. Sharar which of them they feel capable of completing for presentation to SJ. Bronze Certification requires a minimum of 150 points but it was deemed advisable to aim for 200 or more in the event that some actions presented are rejected. The DPW will provide data on the municipal fleet of vehicles to enable Mr. Curshen to prepare a 'Fleet Inventory', which is a priority action. It was agreed that progress should be followed up at least on a bi-monthly basis. Ms Rabacchi discussed items relating to Earth Day which already qualify for action points such as the booklet with a map and listing of trees in the Arboretum. Mr. Nebbia presented the idea of having a weekly Farmers' Market which is an SJ action. Members agreed that he should prepare a brief feasibility study to be shown at the next meeting. Members discussed the proposed new Arboretum building which would also constitute a SJ action. Ms Rabacchi will determine at what point this would be valid, whether the building must be completed or sufficient if planned and funded. Also to contact Carol Thielke to determine the present status of the project. Mr. Sharar and Ms Surrago agreed to investigate the Sustainable Land Use Pledge which had been approved by Council in 2009 but has expired. The intention is to have Council reinstate the pledge, which is a SJ priority action.

