

GLEN ROCK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Municipal Building, Harding Plaza, Glen Rock, NJ 07452

AGENDA Meeting of May 17, 2016

Ben Meyer	Chris Leishear	Mark McCullough
Lesley Elton	Laura Occhipinti	

Alternates:

Guests: Gabriel Bullaro, Alan Bronner, Scott from DC power, Alex Howe and his grandmother

Call to Order at 7:35

Public Comment –Given the number of guests with new business, they were given the floor first so that they would not have to sit through the entire agenda/meeting:

Safe Sentry E-waste Presentation

7th grader Alex Howe provided an overview of his HIPE team’s SAFE Sentry presentation on Electronic (E) Waste and he can be reached at alex.howe12@gmail.com for further details, comments, and questions. He has been actively researching the use of RFID technology to drive electronics recycling at the residential level as 4 billion pounds of consumer electronics went to trash in 2013. E waste is full of heavy metals and other hazardous wastes. The team has created SAFE Sentry (patent pending) to have trash trucks or bins that are equipped with RFID readers detect the tags in household waste so that it can be processed/recycled properly. Alex has spoken and consulted with 35 experts in government, academia, the private sector and the media to further develop his innovative technology and process.

Municipal Solar Potential

Scott from DC solar passed out an article that he printed from the Internet on the growth of solar power. He is interested in helping GR put solar on their municipal buildings. The first step is for him to determine what is being spent, the second step is to analyze if solar can be of benefit. We will work with Sylvia or the Borough Administrator to provide him 2-3 months of utility bills. He also briefly mentioned SRECs (Solar Renewable Energy Credits). Alan Bronner mentioned that Waldwick municipal buildings have solar. Scott didn’t have business cards nor company/corporate literature at this time, but explained that he is an independent contractor for DC Solar.

FOGRA’s EEC proposal discussion

Alan Bronner shared a picture that was taken in December 2015 of an area adjacent/near to the proposed EEC in the Thielke Arboretum. He also stated that he has asked FOGRA for financial statements. Both he and Gabriel Bullaro maintained that there is already plenty of environmental education in Glen Rock’s public schools (which they noted were some of the best in the state/country). Mr. Bullaro spoke with someone at the BOE (perhaps the superintendent, I didn’t quite catch whom), who said that there are plenty of classrooms available for environmental education. Alan cited the need for a “compromise”, and that the Pavilion would be a good compromise, but FOGRA has not appeared interested in compromise. They also ascertained that the Borough’s Master Plan does not call for building construction in the Arboretum and asked if Co-Chair Chris Leishear has read the Plan, who has not. As in their previous statements during the April GREC meeting they felt that the pavilion at the pool was sufficient for environmental learning. They also stated that DEP says a wetland is defined as being 50 feet from the water and suggested that the proposed building footprint is within a “floodplain” if it’s not within a wetland. They also contend that the entire Arboretum (including trails) has to be ADA compliant. Co-Chair Chris Leishear stated that he believed only the building had to be ADA compliant. Alan also mentioned that FOGRA is being investigated by the Attorney General and that there was a \$15,000 fine for failure to register FOGRA appropriately. Co-Chair Chris Leishear responded that it was his understanding that yes, Alan was correct, that FOGRA’s registration as a 501c had lapsed, but that this was easily remedied by paperwork and the paying of a much smaller fee than what was cited by Mr. Bronner. Finally, they mentioned that there was “an email from the mayor” tabling all future negotiations regarding the Arboretum.

Agenda Topic/Owner	Key Points	Next Action Steps
Minutes approval	Minutes of May 17, 2016 approved.	
Liaison with Schools/ Rabacchi	Update on 2 SJ-funded projects by high school students.	N/A, Sylvia absent
Fleet Inventory/ Meyer, Elton	Update on odometer readings and fuel usage.	
Local government Energy Audits/Leishear, Meyer	All energy conservation measures recommended have been approved and included in the municipal budget for 2016.	Work in progress
HEA outreach progress / Meyer	Update on status	No promotions nor updates have been received from Ciel Power.
BYO Bag/McCullough	Discuss GR businesses survey, and next steps to advance plastic bag regulations in GR	Work in progress
Water conservation/ Rabacchi	Update on water conservation ordinance proposal.	N/A Sylvia absent, but Laura spoke briefly on the RW info session.
Arboretum education center/Leishear	GREC "position paper" in preparation.	Pending additional research
New Business	Key Points	
E-waste project proposal / Rabacchi	Alex How and HIPE team members will update the Commission on their progress	See update on page 1, under Public Comment

Adjournment