

# GLEN ROCK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Municipal Building, Harding Plaza, Glen Rock, NJ 07452

## October 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 Minutes

### Roll Call

Andy Curshen	yes	Scott King	yes	Sylvia Rabacchi	yes
Lesley Elton	yes	Christopher Leishear	yes	Paul Sharar	yes
Naomi Gamorra	yes	Mark McCullough (liaison)	yes	Mary Jane Surrago (liaison)	yes

**Guests:** Jean Burnet, Kim Butler, Allison Cassin, Gloria Doyle, Elaine Howe, Amy Martin, Heather McDermott, Jean Urmston, and Watershed Ambassador John Pereira.

**Call to Order** Acting Co-Chair Andy Curshen welcomed our guests to the open portion of the Commission meeting at 7:40 PM.

**Site Plan Review** – None to report

**Planning Board Report** – No report

**Public Comment** – Sylvia Rabacchi, Lead on our Schools and Environment Team, welcomed teachers and parents. Her Summary:

This is to first of all thank all participants to the GREC October meeting. It was a productive first meeting where we introduced each other and then discussed and identified some of the areas that need more help in order to successfully implement environmentally-friendly activities at the schools. I am sure there are more, but this is a start! This is meant to be a brief summary of what was discussed especially for those who could not attend.

**1. Recycling** seems to be an issue at the schools: despite the presence of recycling bins, students and adults, often “contaminate” recycling with non-recyclable materials (Styrofoam trays, dirty coffee cups etc etc). As a consequence, at the MS/HS custodians throw the dirty recyclables together with the trash! **Suggestions:** Ms Urmston and I discussed the possibility to prepare a short educational powerpoint presentation and then to run a series of short 15 min presentations to the Middle school students during their “Study lunch” time (6 sessions would cover the entire MS student body), we would show pictures of what goes in the recycle bin and what does NOT, and inform them of what’s currently going on. We would obviously ask Mr Thomson for approval. The presentation can then be shared with the elementary schools as well.

**2. Idling:** despite the town ordinance limiting idling to 3 minutes, many people are still idling their cars while waiting to pick up their kids. **Suggestions:** We will ask Dr Valenti to please ask the principals of all schools to remind all parents

**3. MS/HS Cafeteria and Food service “Pomptonians”:** it appears that a couple of projects involving the cafeteria may receive resistance from the company, possibly due to the current contract (*this is based on rumors though, nothing official*). We would like to add a water bottle filling station inside the cafeteria and also we would like to phase out the current use of Styrofoam trays (not recyclable and toxic). **Suggestions:** since the current contract with Pomptonians seems to expire very soon, we would like to bring this up with Dr Valenti and other school administrators. Parents have also been complaining about the food quality and service offered. Amy will discuss the issue at the Federated HAS meeting as well.

**4. Elementary schools** could profit from having input from the GREC in projects to run with their environmental clubs/green teams.

**Suggestions:** a. GREC will prepare a list of suggestions for areas to focus on and will help communication among schools for exchange of ideas. b. the water ambassador Jonathan Pereira, present at the meeting, is volunteering to help the elementary schools with watershed/water pollution, by coming to school to run demonstrations c. Ms Elaine Howe, parent at Hamilton, has initiated and led two successful activities (Habitat day and Harvest fest), and has prepared a binder detailing all activities included: she is willing to share this with parents interested in running similar activities in the elementary schools d. we have a shorter/edited version of “Tapped” (30 min) that can be shown at the elementary schools whether in class or at the environmental clubs. Several other videos can also be considered that cover other environmental issues ( Bag it, Trash, Gasland, etc..)

**5.** GREC members mentioned that Glen Rock received the Bronze certification from “Sustainable Jersey” last year and introduced the newly created “**Sustainable Jersey for schools**” program that is being launched in 2014.. The GREC will be following it closely as it develops and will provide updates to the schools as more details are out in 2014, including basis for school certification and grants.

**6. Potential new member, Gloria Doyle,** offered to help me as liaison between the GREC and the schools, as we move forward.

**7. Amy Martin** volunteered to identify parents/teachers that are interested in being involved in environmental friendly activities in the elementary schools. In addition, there may be people that are already actively running projects that we are not aware of: it would be very useful to identify such people (they should contact me or Gloria)

<b>Old Business</b>		
<b>Agenda Topic/Owner</b>	<b>Key Points</b>	<b>Next Action Steps</b>
Energy Outreach. Home Energy Audit Program /Paul Sharar	RFP now completed and sent to Commissioners. It is planned to be issued on October 16 <sup>th</sup> with bids Due no later than December 17. The timetable to complete and evaluate the program allows us to Submit our report in time for recertification.	The Commission concurred with the goals and timetable of the Home Energy Audit Program and commended all for moving the program ahead promptly. RFP to be issued October 16 Energy Team to be organized. Plan for bid review.
Outreach to Schools/ Sylvia Rabacchi.	Meeting with Sup. Valenti to discuss the new Sustainable Schools program, water stations and recycling,	Meeting with School Superintendent to be scheduled Follow-up on suggestions of October meeting.
Community Gardens/Lesley Elton	Possible realignment of gardens to increase available space. Other available land for additional gardens.	For discussion at November meeting
Shade Tree Committee/ Naomi Gamorra	Update re draft of memo to Council on tree replacement ordinance. Signs for trees at Arboretum have come in.	Work with Shade Tree Comm on Spring program for replacing Trees lost in storms.
Meeting dates for 2014/Andy Curshen	Dates emailed to commissioners and liaison officers. 2014 meeting dates have been posted on the town calendar	Done.
Anti-idling program Naomi Gamarro	Help needed to get message out to town and schools	
Water station at HS/Mids Sylvia Rabacchi	Station in cafeteria I not yet installed	Follow up with Supt and BOE Facilities lead
GREC Annual Report P Sharar/Andy Curshen	Review drafts, add copy, find editor to help	Continuing

<b>New Business</b>		
<b>Agenda Topic/owner</b>	<b>Key Points</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>
Liaison process between the GREC and the GR School/Sylvia Rabacchi	Explore range of activities; summarize Sustainable Jersey procedures and requirements for municipality as well as new Sustainable Jersey for Schools program.	
S.J. Urban Suburban Rural Caucus/Andy Curshen and Paul Sharar	Commissioners can register for this event at S.J.'s website. Paul and Andy have registered. Date: Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> Time: 5:30pm-8:30pm.Location: University Med. Ctr. Plainsboro Twp.	
ANJEC Environmental Congress	Oct 19 <sup>th</sup> , 9am– 3:30pm at Mddx Cnty Coll. Edison NJ. Registration and details at the ANJEC website. Commissioners can go to Workshops at no cost to themselves. GREC has paid for Annual Workshop Plan.	

**Adjourn**