

Glen Rock Environmental Commission Meeting of October 20th 2015

Commissioners and Liasion Officers in attendance: Andy Curshen; Chris Leishear; Paul Sharar; Lesley Elton; Charles Nebbia; Mary Jane Surrago; Sylvia Rabacchi.

Guest Attendees: G.R. M.S. students: Alex Howe; Ethan Donovan; Patrick Mulligan.

Ridgewood M.S. students: Ansel Chang; Rocco DeSilva; Michael Yin;

Green Team member; Francesca Trousdale

Minutes of the Meeting

A team of six students, enrolled in the First Lego League Research Project, presented their program to improve handling of E Waste. E Waste refers to materials such as heavy metals, silicone, lead etc that are found in modern electronic equipment such as cellphones, computers of all types, printers etc etc. The team advised the Commission that some 20-50 metric tons of E Waste are disposed of every year. Most of this waste ends up in Asian countries' dumps or landfills, where it is picked over by children and others, resulting in illnesses caused by the toxicity inherent in the materials found in these E Waste items. The team's solution to this problem was to encourage manufacturers to install a microchip on these items which could be detected by sanitation workers using an RF or similar detection machine. This way the offending item could be returned to the resident who had attempted to dispose of the item(s) improperly. In addition the team recommended an education program to draw residents' attention to this serious problem.

1. The minutes of the September 22nd meeting were unanimously approved by the commissioners.
2. Sylvia update re school projects – Styrofoam project etc. Secaucus has banned all Styrofoam products. The grant for recycling education has been submitted.
3. Paul advised that more than 50 people had signed up for the Anti-Idling program at the Community Showcase which he said was very successful. It was held on October 7th at the GRHS from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.
4. Chris Leishear complained that the mulch offered at the recycle center contains all kinds of unacceptable material and should be cleaned up. Commissioners agreed that an approach to the Recycle Center staff was required. This should now be placed as a to-do item on the next Agenda.
5. Paul confirmed that 136 home energy audits had been completed to date.
6. Chris recommended that a Green Team person should be asked to work on the various Shade Tree Projects so he could devote more time to the mulching and related issues.
7. Mary Jane indicated that a new system for recording fuel usage and mileage on the municipal fleet should be installed by next year.
8. Paul to ask Beliga of CHA exactly when his final report would be forthcoming. The latest known is that it would appear by the end of October.
9. Scott King has offered to discuss further the status of the Green Checklist Resolution.
10. Re BYO Bag project, it was suggested that a Green Team person might pick up the project.

11. Three Commissioners will be leaving the Commission at the end of the year. Paul reports that Ben Meyer is interested and willing to be involved in the Energy area.
12. Planning for the 2015 Annual Report. The report must be presented to the Council in January 2016. It was suggested that each member write a paragraph about accomplishments in their area(s) and send them to Sylvia along with good resolution pictures
13. The Senior Citizen Community Event on “You and the Environment” will be held in the Council Room on November 10 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM.
14. GREC will sponsor the presentation by Elaine Silverstein at the GR Library on October 29th from 7 – 8:30 PM.
15. GREC was been invited to participate in the Arboretum Fall Festival on Sunday October 18th. Students also attended.