

**Seaside Park Environmental Committee
Re-organization Meeting
January 13, 2016
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Karen Barna at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers, 6th & Central Aves.

In Attendance:

Karen Barna, Boro Clerk

Mike Tierney, Council Liaison

Denise Koury

Sherry Villano

Maggi Husar

Ann Hayes

Linda Roberts

Mayor Mathies joined the meeting at 7:30

New Business:

1. The committee welcomed new members Ann Hayes and Linda Roberts. Councilman Tierney was welcomed as the 2016 Council Liaison.

2. Nomination of Denise Koury for 2016 Committee Chair made by Sherry Villano, motion seconded and approved.

Nomination of Edie Klink for Vice-Chair made by Denise Koury, motion seconded and approved.

Nomination of Ann Hayes for Committee Secretary by Denise Koury, motion seconded and approved.

3. Minutes of the November 2015 regular meeting were reviewed and approved. No regular meeting was held in December 2015.

4. Motion made by Denise Koury to change start of 2016 meetings from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm for the convenience of members. Motion seconded and approved.

6. Goals for 2016: A copy of Seaside Park Borough ordinance No. 1517, which established the Environmental Advisory Committee, was distributed for review by new and returning members. It was agreed that the goals and mission statement for 2016 will be carried forward from 2015 with any suggested updates to be made at the next meeting. Members are also asked to bring ideas for any speaker programs to the February meeting.

Committee Reports:

1. Butterfly Garden: Denise Koury stated the garden will need to be evaluated for any weeding, plant replacement or additions for the spring season. Greg Penn is creating a draft of educational signage for the garden that the committee will review on his return.

2. Letter to Council regarding Route 35 Reconstruction and Pump Station permits: The committee had presented a letter to council for their consideration to act in support of Save Barnegat Bay's motion for the bay-front pumping stations to be individually permitted. Councilman Tierney acknowledged receipt of the letter by council. Mr. Tierney updated the committee on the pump out stations and pipe replacements in town. It was concluded that the Rt. 35 flooding has been reduced with the pumping stations active.

Sherry Villano asked Mr. Tierney about the status of the "Living Reef" project to reduce bay-front flooding. He stated that 1.3 million is currently available for the project. A larger grant had been sought, but is not yet approved. He will update the committee as plans move forward.

3. Budget for projects: Karen Barna stated she spoke to Sandy Rice regarding the committee budget for 2016 and will provide Denise with amount when finalized. Denise will contact Karen or Mike by email if any specific funding is needed in the interim.

Karen will also notify the committee of any Environmental Conventions or meetings by municipalities that members may want to attend.

4. Digital Sign: Sherry Villano asked if the sign project could be brought to the council for a vote. It has been discussed in the past but never voted on. The sign would be placed on the Marina lawn and list upcoming public events. It could also be used by Police or OEM for public announcements. Mayor Mathies described the use of a similar sign with success. Ann Hayes mentioned that it has been 10 years since the project was presented to the public, and there have been improvements to the look and function of digital signs that may make the project more appealing.

Mayor Mathies suggested the committee update their proposal and ask the Council to vote. Mr. Tierney stated the money for the sign has already been budgeted previously, but that maintenance will be needed to keep the information current. Mayor Mathies suggested reaching out to other towns to ask for protocols.

The committee agreed to update the proposal with current design options, a defined purpose for messages, a plan for updating messages, and then present to Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next meeting: February 10th, 7:30 pm