

MEMORANDUM



TO: Livingston Township Council and Township Manager
FROM: Gary Schwartz, Chair, Livingston Environmental Commission (LEC)
DATE: February 22, 2016
SUBJECT: 2015 LEC Annual Report

Members - The following individuals were members of the LEC during 2015. Attendance is noted at every meeting and recorded in the minutes by the Corresponding Secretary:

Gary Schwartz (Chair)
Art Altman (Vice Chair)
Walter LeVine (Treasurer)
Rob Emert (Corresponding Secretary)
Pearl Hwang (LEC Web Master)
Norman Gudema
Lauren Tabak Fass (Alternate1)
John Lyden (Alternate 2)
Al Anthony (Town Council Liaison)
Sam Ratner (Planning Board Liaison)

There are new members, Dawn Spango and Bob Hill were appointed for 2016. They replaced John Lyden and Rob Emert. Norm Gudema is the corresponding Secretary.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- **Electronics Recycling/Paper Shredding Events** - LEC members continued to support the Recycling and Reclamation Committee in the three sponsored Electronics Recycling and Paper Shredding events. These events were held on March 22, Saturday, June 13, and October 17, 2015.

General Public Education and Press Releases - The LEC has kept residents aware of environmental events through the township website. LEC publications, West Essex Tribune press releases, photographs and important links are provided on the LEC township website. The LEC has included the monthly LEC topic agenda and minutes on the website.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Bike Livingston-On June 7, 2015, LEC members assisted with the West Essex YMCA a family-oriented bike tour to through the town's neighborhoods utilizing 3 bike tours loops. Since Bike Livingston is part of HCHY (a non-Livingston entity) now, the LEC ended its formal support to the event in 2015 but will continue to assist on a member voluntary basis.

Arbor Day- On April 24, 2015, LEC Chair Gary Schwartz attended the tree-planting event with Deputy Mayor, Al Anthony, Livingston Township officials Michelle Mead and Mike Anello.

SITE PLAN AND DOCUMENT REVIEW

Site Plan Review - It is the responsibility of the LEC to review and comment upon applications that are pending before the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The LEC also recommends for approval or denial of Environmental Impact Statement Waiver requests.

A representative of the LEC regularly attends (on a monthly schedule) the Technical Review Advisory Committee (TRAC) meetings and conveys environmentally related comments to the applicant based upon the LEC's review of the application. Over the course of 2015, the LEC considered and commented on the following applications and EIS waivers:

- Livingston Car Wash, Livingston Circle
- Pulte Homes of NJ - 110 South Orange Ave.
- Container Store-Saber Livingston

COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Open Space Issues - At every regular LEC meeting, representatives of the Township's Open Space Committee give a report on the various projects and other issues that the Open Space Committee is handling. The LEC is responsible for ranking the environmental features of the open space parcels proposed to be acquired by the Open Space Committee by using the "Criteria for Open Space Preservation", but none were required this year. Art Altman, Sam Ratner and Rob Emert served as the LEC liaisons to the Open Space Committee.

Pilgrim Pipeline Evaluation of Environmental, Health and Safety Issues- We evaluated the potential Environmental, Health and Safety Issues concerning the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline installation and operation that may cross through the Township of Livingston.

Artificial Turf Evaluation- The LEC conducted a summary environmental, safety and health opinion for the existing and future installation materials to utilize for artificial turf fields.

Tree Ordinance amendments-The LEC is currently working with Livingston, Building Permits and Permits Department officials to amend the Livingston Tree Ordinance.

Bamboo Ban Ordinance-The LEC prepared and issued a proposed Bamboo Ban ordinance to the Livingston Town Council for review and consideration.

Highlands Act review letter-The LEC prepared and issued a recommendation for a letter of support from the Livingston Town Council to ensure that the upcoming proposed updates to the New Jersey Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP) include careful and meticulous planning objectives to preserve and protect the natural waterways.

COMMITTEE LIAISON EFFORTS

Memorial Park Master Plan Advisory Committee- Gary Schwartz and Walt LeVine as alternate member serve on the Memorial Park Master Plan Advisory Committee. Several meeting have been held. We are the only Livingston committee initially participating, and that we attended the meetings and provided recommendations for considerations. The LEC will continue its participation and attend scheduled meetings in 2016.

Livingston Green Team – Walt LeVine attended the meetings of the Livingston Green Team and served as the liaison for the LEC.

Green Business Recognition Program Committee –The LEC is co-partnering with the Livingston Green Team. The purpose of this Committee Township is to give recognition to local businesses that meet certain criteria established by a representative from the environmentally related committees such as the Environmental Commission, Green Team, Recycling & Reclamation Committee and the Vision 20/20 Committee, and the business community representatives from the Livingston Chamber of Commerce, and Livingston Community Partnership. This is an area where Livingston can show support to our local businesses and show that we are "business friendly" and also gain points as a Sustainable Jersey Action. Gary Schwartz was the representative of this Committee. The first meeting was held October 2, 2015.

Recycling and Reclamation (R&R) Committee-The LEC is a member for the R&R committee. Walt LeVine was a liaison to this committee and conveyed the various R&R projects with the LEC.

Complete Streets -Gary Schwartz is serving as the LEC liaison to the Complete Streets Committee. A resolution and policy was approved by the Town Council for a Complete Street's program. Jeannette Harduby, Township Livingston Engineer scheduled a meeting to implement the program the first Wednesday of each month and continuing into 2016.

Orchard Park Committee-The LEC offered advice to the Orchard Park Committee regarding wetlands zones and safe nature trails. The Livingston Boy Scouts troop was involved to create a nature path through Orchard Park. The LEC provided funding for a Kiosk communication bulletin board to be installed at the entry of the Orchard Park. The purpose of the Kiosk will be to disseminate wildlife, nature preserve and ecosystems information to the public.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Pearl Hwang continued to serve as the Webmaster and editorial support for the LEC webpage on the Township's website to provide updated and current information. This position also is responsible for archiving meeting minutes onto the LEC website for public view and to regularly contribute informational articles onto the LEC website. Pearl also serves as the LEC corresponding secretary compiling regular site plan review comments to the Planning Board.

GOALS FOR 2016

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

LEC has proposed the planting of an array of Cherry trees in honor of the past Bicentennial. This event is subject to LEC obtaining adequate financing for the purchases of the trees and to inaugurate the restoration of Memorial Park Master Plan.

- Participating in the "Complete Streets" committee. Working with the Committee to develop pathway(s) connecting one business area, school zone area and residential area. This would provide an opportunity to evaluate a tangible means to further promote a sustainable and traffic calming/pedestrian/bike friendly community. The goal is to create a few "complete streets" prior to the Bike Livingston event tentatively to be held in June sponsored by the Livingston YMCA.
- Promoting efforts of the Recycling and Reclamation Committee in maintaining and expanding recycling opportunities (e.g., household hazardous waste).

- Continue to collaborate and support Livingston Board of Education and Livingston Education Foundation and Town Council to sponsor an environmentally related program at Orchard Hill.
- Solicit ANJEC grants and arrange the preparation of such grants through Town Hall personnel to budget for various projects such as Orchard Hill, Complete Streets, etc.

BUDGET –Various members attended ANJEC sponsored programs throughout the year, which attendance is mostly without cost, as such attendance is included in our membership dues, except for special programs that have a nominal cost to attend. We have proposed a \$3,000 budget for 2016.