

## MEMORANDUM



**Livingston Environmental  
Commission**  
est. 1973

TO: Livingston Township council and Township Manage  
FROM: Gary Schwartz, Chair, Livingston Environmental Commission (LEC)  
DATE: January 18, 2015  
SUBJECT: 2014 LEC Annual Report

**Members** - The following individuals were members of the LEC during 2014. 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 (Secretary)  
Pearl Hwang  
Norman Gudema  
Lauren Tabak Fass (Alternate1)  
John Lyden (Alternate 2)  
Al Anthony (Council Liaison)  
Sam Ratner (Planning Board Liaison)

### **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 Sunday, March 23, Saturday, June 7, and Saturday, November 1.

**General Public Education and Press Releases** - The LEC has kept residents aware of environmental events through fliers and the township website. LEC publications, press releases, photographs and important links are provided on the LEC township website. The LEC had several informational articles published on the LEC Township website on topics such as the Community Clean up, Environmental Film Series and Bike Livingston.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

**Bike Livingston**-On June 8, 2014, 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 will end its formal support to the event.

**Arbor Day**- LEC members Norm Gudema and Walt LeVine participated in the annual Arbor Day ceremony.

## **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 2014, the LEC considered and commented on the following applications and EIS waivers:

- Barnabus Health Ambulatory Care Center Annex (EIS Waiver)
- Brandywine Senior Living (Prel. & Final Site Plan Review)
- Health Resources of NJ (Preliminary & Final Site Plan Review)
- Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey (Preliminary & Final Site Plan Review)
- St. Barnabas Diagnostic and Cyberknife Expansion (Preliminary & Final Site Plan Review)
- St. Barnabas West Wing Expansion (Preliminary & Final Site Plan Review)
- Pulte Homes of NJ - 110 South Orange Ave.

**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 future installation of artificial turf fields.

**TRAC Letter of Recommendations-**Gary Schwartz met with Peter Klein, Livingston Rich Calibi, Livingston Engineering Department and Jackie Hollis. The purpose was to revise the procedures for improving the dialog and communications between the LEC and TRAC/Planning Board regarding Environmental, Safety and Health recommendations to new site plan applicants. The enhanced procedure was developed and successfully implemented.

#### **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 2015.

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

**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 was approved by the Town Council to develop a Complete Street's policy. Michael Vieira, Chair of the Livingston Transportation Advisory Committee will be planning a meeting to implement a policy in 2015 with implementation of one bike pathway serving a school, business district and residential homes.

#### **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 2015**

#### **COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND OUTREACH**

- The Bicentennial Committee has proposed the planting of 200 Cherry trees in honor of the past Bicentennial. It has been proposed that a grove of 40 trees recognize the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LEC. The plantings will occur as part of the Memorial Park Master Plan implementation.
- LEC has proposed the planting of 200 Cherry trees in honor of the past Bicentennial. This event is subject to LEC obtaining adequate financing for the purchases of the trees.

- 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.
- Promoting efforts of the Recycling and Reclamation Committee in maintaining and expanding recycling opportunities (*e.g.*, household hazardous waste).
- Collaborate and support Livingston Board of Education and Livingston Education Foundation and Town Council to sponsor a community garden 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.