

2016 Environmental Commission Report to Mayor & Borough Council

Atlantic Highlands, NJ

Lenape Woods – Steward Michael Curry monitored the condition of the woods and reported to the EC on a regular basis. Trail maintenance days were cancelled due to bad weather. Coordinated with the fire department in evaluating emergency accessibility through the trail system. Carolyn Campo maintained contact with Middletown Township and Cottage Gate and coordinated the connection of Lenape Woods to a trail system on the south side of Route 36.

Waterfront – Coordinated with Clean Ocean Action and the borough on beach sweeps on in April and October.

Monmouth County Environmental Council - James Krauss an EC member and a county council member, reported to the EC on a regular basis.

Bayshore Trail - Monitored Monmouth County's plans to reconstruct the trail.

Watershed Ambassador - In connection with Earth Day, Donald Gates arranged for environmental presentations at the grammar and high schools on April 19.

Army Corps Flood Study - Jane Austin and James Krauss attended a kick-off meeting and site tour with the Army Corps and Princeton Hydro. Reviewed preliminary study proposals. James Krauss participated in a conference call to narrow the study to three proposals.

McConnell Tract – Subsequent to the Monmouth Conservation presentation to the Mayor and Borough Council, James Krauss had discussions with borough officials and Monmouth Conservation regarding the steps necessary to acquire the tract as a public park, as well as the possible obstacles.

Blue Star Certification - In coordination with the Borough's Green Team provided documentation for successful certification in the Blue Star program.

Community Vulnerability Analysis - Michael Curry and James Krauss attended a meeting and site tour of the Bayshore Trail conducted by a multi-governmental group organized by Sustainable Jersey.

Hillside Road - James Krauss attended a meeting with the borough administrator and Maser Consulting to assess grant opportunities in regard to rebuilding the caved-in section of the unpaved portion of Hillside Road.

Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) - Researched the issues and grant possibilities related to updating the NRI.

NJ League of Conservation Voters - Reviewed a resolution proposed by this entity. It would require the borough to adopt very aggressive measures to increase the use of renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Agreed not to recommend adoption since there was no provision to provide the funding necessary to achieve the goals.

Smoke Free Parks - Reviewed a proposed ordinance, but passed on recommendation because of the difficulty of enforcement.

Ongoing issues - Monitored and discussed various issues including Many Mind Creek silting, the US Geological Survey, dog park proposals, master plan update, proposed Sandy Hook National Marine Sanctuary, the COA Navesink River pollution clean-up and leaking underground storage tanks at 25 Harborview Drive and the borough yard.