

The Borough of Hightstown
Environmental Commission
156 Bank Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520

February 3, 2014

To: Mayor Steven Kirson, Gail Doran, Council Liaison, Members of Council

From: A. Keith LePrevost, Vice Chair, Secretary to the Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission- Annual Report
December 31, 2014

The Borough of Hightstown's Environmental Commission has finished 2013 with positive results. As a group we have worked with each and every board and commission in the borough to enhance our town and ensure a sustainable future for Hightstown.

Changes to the Environmental Commission that were approved this year include:

- Jeremy Everett and Terry Parliaros were added as members of the Commission.
- A. Keith LePrevost was named Secretary of the Commission and will become the Vice Chair at the January 2014 meeting.
- The responsibility for the Sustainable Jersey work and application will be handed off to A. Keith LePrevost as of January 1, 2014 from Barbara Jones. Keith has expressed an interest in this task.

Accomplishments of the Environmental Commission:

- April 20th Borough wide cleanup was very successful, over 275 LBS of trash were collected.
- April 20th Inaugural Shredding Event was a big hit. Over 1.5 tons of paper from our residents was collected and shredded.
- We planted a total of 5 new trees that were donated by individuals or groups (Girl Scouts)
- We have reviewed 4 Planning board applications and provided feedback on each.
- Worked with the Hightstown High School E.C. Liaison to complete her project.
- Working with an Eagle Scout on his environmental project.
- Reviewed 14 tree issues with various homeowners on issues ranging from trimming to removal and in kind replacement.
- Worked with the NJ Shade tree federation and ASPLUNDH on the utility line trimming and how to do a better job on our trees.
- November 16- Working day in Rocky Brook Park to clean up the greenway.

Ongoing issues and Concerns:

- The commission has been working on having a new trash boom installed on the Timber Run waterway to slow the debris from the turnpike from filtering into the lake.
- Silting of Peddie Lake from the turnpike construction
- DEP clean up and ongoing toxic issues at the Phillip Lighting plant on Bank Street

- Stream water quality and the Boroughs impact on the Rocky Brook
- Tree maintenance issues and ongoing training for municipal staff

Workshops and Public Events:

- Conducted a State Wide workshop on storm water management with ANJEC, using the Hightstown Housing Authority as a model for storm water management.
- Public presentation in June given on the Storm Water project that was partially funded by Sustainable Jersey.
- Attended the June 18th ANJEC workshop (2 members)
- Participated at the St. Anthony's Environmental Fair
- Participated in the annual Harvest Fair with a demonstration on storm water management.
- Participated with Sustainable Jersey at the League of Municipalities Conferences discussing our Storm water project.

Goals for 2014

- **Get certified with Sustainable Jersey!!**
- Enhance training and education for borough employees on driver training and tree maintenance.
- Develop additional community garden space.
- Plant and tree species identification project at Rocky Brook
- Continue the repair and renovation of the Rocky Brook wetlands paths.