

Lake Como Environmental Commission
Minutes
March 28, 2007 Meeting

Meeting commenced at approx. 7:30 p.m. Members present included: Joe Huber, Chairman; Lee Wescott, member; Gretchen Schmidhausler, Planning Board liaison; Basil Wolfe, Council liaison.

1. Joe Huber reported the tree planted to mark Arbor Day 2006 has been removed by Public Works. Members were concerned because Commission was not contacted in advance and should have been notified and allowed to make a determination about whether the tree was actually dead. Tree, an Eastern Red Bud, was donated by Huber & his company. He will contact Mayor Ryan and investigate the issue further. Councilman Wolfe also agreed to look into the matter.
2. Lee Wescott presented information about the 2007 Green Community Challenge Grants, through the Forestry Dept. Lee and Joe will explore feasibility of applying for grant money through this program.
3. Chairman Huber again questioned the Lake Como Tree Replacement Fund: How is money designated? What are approved uses? How much money is currently available? etc. He will continue to look into the issue.
4. Chairman Huber presented a letter he wrote to the Lake Como Council asking for support in the creation of a Lake Commission with our neighbors Belmar and Spring Lake.
5. Chairman Huber reported he has been receiving generic "fill in the blank" press releases from ASNJEC. He will customize them to Lake Como and submit them to local papers.
6. Gretchen Schmidhausler reported she has not had the chance to discuss Environmental Commission business at recent Planning Board meetings due to the length of the meetings and very full agendas. She also updated members on status of recent applications.
7. Members discussed individually visiting the old Birdsall property in advance to building project to investigate whether trees will need to be removed.
8. Basil Wolfe reported soil testing is scheduled on areas adjacent to the now defunct Wall Auto Wreckers.
9. Councilman Wolfe reported town is looking to remove/replace willow trees at lake due to unsuitability. More suitable, indigenous trees will be considered. Commission will have input.
10. The Environmental Commission will commemorate Arbor Day on Saturday, April 28, 2007. Event will most likely involve a tree planting and lake cleanup. Details will be finalized at April meeting.