ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2009

Present: John Kashwick, Mary Mayer, Arthur Goldberg, Adrienne Isacoff, Steve Isaacson, Billy Bauer – Associate Member and Bobbie Goldberg representing the Closter Historic Preservation Commission

Commenced: 8 pm

Review Minutes – 5/19 meeting – Approved Unanimously

New Business:

1. Billy Bauer – a student at Bergen Academies has been appointed to the EC in the capacity of an Associate Member by the M&C. Billy is interested in Environmental Sciences and has organized and participated in several Hackensack River Cleanup campaigns.

2. Dr. Goldberg spoke about the 6/3/09 Planning Board meeting where they discussed the Closter Plaza application. It is still being decided whether application will be heard by Planning Board or the ZBOA. David Scholz and Arthur Goldberg attended meeting (Steve Isaacson was there, too.) and were not allowed to comment on the application. The EC is re-sending the letter to the Planning Board and cc-ing the ZBOA. Next Planning Board meeting is July 1st (submit letter to Board Secy. prior to 6/25/09)

Old Business:

1. Cross Closter Trail – We are still waiting for Tim Blunt to deliver the large trail signs. We have small signs and need to designate where signs are to be placed. They will be mounted on green metal sign posts. Dr. Goldberg brought up that there is 50 feet of board left and that we should use it to create a boardwalk connecting Buzzoni Farm with the Conservation Easement. Steve Isaacson explained that the “boardwalk” constructed by Eagle Scouts by Scholz Bridge and Brook Street bridge is only 6” wide. We will have to inspect project and perhaps use the “excess” board to correct any design problems.

2. MacBain Farm – subcommittee should meet prior to next EC meeting to discuss contract renewal for farm. The EC is looking into creating a seasonal MacBain Farm map indicating which crops are planted and where. EC also wants to create a large map of farm. The EC will start planning for the “Mac Bain Fall Festival 2009”. The Mac Bain Farm will be open only on Weds, Sat., and Sunday, in order to allow vegetables to grow. Visitors to farm will be asked to sign in with their name, address and town they live in. Sign-in sheets will be modified to reflect our new requirement. This motion was made by Dr. Goldberg, seconded by Adrienne Isacoff and passed unanimously. “In consideration, with the approval of John McCaffrey, MacBain Farm will be only be open to Public on Weds., Sat. & Sun.”
during the growing season.” The DPW is discussing the dumping of commercial trash at DPW by John McCaffrey/Alpine Gardens.

3. **Trails** – Dr. Goldberg brought up that there appears to be approximately 50’ of Locust wood left over from the Eagle Scout Boardwalk projects and suggested that it be used to build a new boardwalk connecting the Buzzoni Farm with the Conservation Easement. There is a question as to whether the boardwalks were constructed properly. The 50’ of wood might be needed to build boardwalks correctly. In the future, any and all projects connected with the EC should be supervised by EC.

4. **Plans:** No new plans for review

5. **Liaison Report** – Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg, Closter Historic Society, Re: Aruyansen Cemetery - It appears that another neighbor has cut down the historic tree canopy on the Borough Right-of-Way, which marked the entrance to the cemetery. The neighbor has landscaped the parcel with invasive Barberry and Forsythia, both are not native species. Photos will be emailed to EC members. A letter will be sent from the EC to the Mayor & Council and the Borough Attorney in support of the content of the letter from the Closter Historic Commission / Jennifer Rothschild & Bobbi Bouton-Goldberg & enforcement of Borough ordinances relating to tree cutting. Registered tree cutters should be notified that if they cut any trees without a permit or that is not on owners property, that they will be held responsible, along with property owner. Owners cut 3 trees on their property, on cemetery property and on borough right-of-way.

6. **OT Delivery** - Shipping and storage company with a fleet of over 40 trucks is purchasing half of the Weyerhauser property. They were required to purchase an liability insurance policy, by their previous landlord, to protect against environmental contamination from gas and oil after being discovered performing truck maintenance on premises.

7. **Bicycles Lanes** - borough should create bicycle lanes for recreational riding and commuting to schools.

8. The Environmental Commission 2009-2010 Budget of $4,500 was passed unanimously.