

BBCA Environment Committee

Minutes June 16, 2007

Attending: Terry Berg, Theresa Chaffer, Erik Olsen, Kevin Whisman

Storm water/sewage

The discussion centered on who we should contact to get help to control storm water runoff. The question was raised about 214 being a state road, and whether the State has the responsibility for maintenance of the ditches on either side of it. Theresa stated that she thinks 214 does not extend to the Bay front but ends where Beverly Avenue begins. The point was made that the ditches are supposed to be cleaned twice a year. The grass gets cut but the ditches don't get cleaned so they're not as deep as needed. Once we identify the responsible agency, we will ask them to evaluate the storm water issue and recommend that they dig the ditches deep enough to more effectively direct the storm water.

We will also point out to them the concern over storm water mixing with sewage. Areas of note are Linden across from Cedar; Poplar and Cedar, the culvert on Cedar, Elm and Maryland. We expect that the Dept. of Public Works will agree that our issues are valid but tell us they have no money to address them. **Theresa volunteered to investigate setting up a meeting with the correct agency.**

Terry suggested we also take grassroots action to improve the situation by doing a rain barrel project. We could apply for a grant to get an expert to give us training on how to gather and reuse rain water and to buy a rain barrels for each household in the community that wants one. We could begin publicizing the project this fall and actually do it in the spring. With help from students seeking service credits or organizations like the Scouts or Boys and Girls Clubs, we could offer to help the elderly or others who might want a rain barrel but can't set it up themselves. Families could be encouraged to decorate their rain barrels in a unique way. **Terry will look into getting a grant and following up on this project.**

Community Clean-up

We decided that we should promote a community clean-up early in the Fall. The suggested dates to have dumpsters on site were September 15-16. This would be 10 days after the Town Meeting. We could try to make it a fun community and family weekend. Perhaps the Kids Committee would like to have a special clean up activity with the kids. Again older kids might want to use it as their required service project. **We nominated Bruce to get the dumpsters.**

Newsletter article (due to Sharon on August 16)

For the next issue, these are our assignments.

Kevin will write a segment about horseshoe crabs,

Eric will write a segment on the impact of pets and the importance of controlling dogs,

Bruce will write a segment on Dumpster Day

Theresa will write an update on storm water

Terry will write a segment on the rain barrel project and will write the final article.

All segments should be sent to Terry by August 13.

Water Sample Results

We've been reading Jeff's emails on this. We decided it would be helpful to take readings at the beach as well and post them each week near the parking lot. Terry will ask Bob Gallagher where we can get our own testing kits.

Meeting Schedule

Rather than have regularly scheduled meetings, we'll continue to have them as needed.

Submitted by

Terry Berg