

## 2015 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. Mike led trail maintenance days on April 26 and November 22. Carolyn Campo maintained contact with Middletown Township and Cottage Gate regarding 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 April 25 and October 24.

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. Reviewed the geotechnical report and agreed that it satisfactorily addressed issues of slope and shore erosion as well as water runoff from the many springs in the hill.

Watershed Ambassador - In connection with Earth Day, Donald Gates arranged for environmental presentations at the grammar and high schools on April 20.

Film One - Had an EC table at the event, distributed energy saving items, hand crank flashlights and reusable shopping bags. Informed citizens about environmental issues and recycling, and collected e-mail addresses for notification of beach sweeps and trail maintenance.

Camping Ordinance - Reviewed Middletown resolution approving camping in Lenape Woods section located in Middletown. Reviewed borough ordinance and made several recommendations for improvements to prevent fires and reduce litter.

Army Corps Flood Study - Requested that Mayor and Council review Open Space Fund ordinance to see if it could be used to provide matching funds for the proposed Army Corps flood control study. Jane Austin and Don Gates attended a meeting with the Army Corps to discuss the planned study.

McConnell Tract - James Krauss had discussions with representatives of Monmouth Conservation regarding the steps necessary to acquire the tract as a public park.

Sustainable Jersey - In coordination with the Borough's Green Team provided documentation for successful recertification in the Sustainable Jersey program.

SeaStreak Parking Lot - Jane Austin met with the Flatlanders group and the SeaStreak manager to ascertain that their newly purchased parking lot would remain pervious and that the dead trees on the lot borders would be replaced.

Shadow Lawn Trailer Park - Sent a letter to Borough of Highlands requesting it to delay consideration of the proposal to rezone the trailer park to allow construction of three ten story apartment buildings until after the US Geological Survey study is complete.

Costeau Resiliency Report - James Krauss attended the follow-up meeting to review implementation of the report's suggestions.

McDavitt Property, Bayside Drive (Block 2, Lot 39) - Approved use of Open Space Funds to acquire the property.

Dog Park - Opposed proposal to locate a dog park in Lenape Woods because it would require removal of trees and mountain laurel.

Ongoing issues - Monitored and discussed various issues including Many Mind Creek silting and snagging and the US Geological Survey.