

Bordentown City Environmental Commission 2002 Annual Report

I-Administrative:

- Bordentown City Environmental Commission (BCEC) was formed in April 2002.
- Joined Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC). Scheduled free Road Show for 2003 (topic: *How to Conduct an Environmental Resource Inventory*).

II-Outreach & Education:

- Created/published inaugural edition of quarterly BCEC newsletter, containing articles and information designed to inform and educate City and area residents about local environmental issues. Distributed newsletter to Bordentown Library and posted on City Hall bulletin board. Future newsletters will also be distributed via e-mail to BCEC database mailing list.
- Staffed a table at the Bordentown Street Fair & Cranberry Festival. Distributed environmental education material. Created and presented educational exhibit regarding Blacks Creek and potential Greenway. Gathered names/addresses for database of volunteers.
- Conducted survey regarding local environmental issues. Source: Cranberry Festival attendees.
- Offered input to consulting engineers regarding new Bordentown Regional High School and possible “green” building design issues.
- Participated in ongoing Heritage Trail process. Offered input regarding environmental impact in Bordentown City segment of Trail.
- Researched potential BCEC website. Reserved web address (www.bcec.us)
- Participated in Delaware & Raritan Greenway Canoe trip of Hamilton-Trenton Marsh.
- Communicated with residents through Letters to the Editor in Register-News.
- Liaised with the following local and regional organizations on behalf of issues relating to Bordentown City: Bordentown Historical Society, Bordentown City Shade Tree Committee, Bordentown Township Open Space Committee, Bordentown Township Environmental Commission, Bordentown Regional School District, Citizens Opposed to the Power Plant, Burlington County Rt. 130 Redevelopment Committee, Burlington County Office of Land Use Planning, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Delaware & Raritan Greenway, NJ-DEP (Green Acres and land Use Planning Divisions).

II-Site Plan Review:

-Conducted extensive research regarding proposed development by Real Property Development Corporation of 3-acre parcel of land on Oliver Street. Submitted two reports regarding environmental impact and liaised with NJ-DEP regarding permitting process. Also, liaised with NJ-DEP Green Acres program regarding purchase of open space for Oliver Street property specifically and Bordentown City property generally. Obtained "Letter of Retroactivity" from NJ-DEP regarding Oliver Street property.

IV-Land Use Planning:

-Participated in ongoing Bordentown City Master Plan review process. Offered input regarding environmental issues. Researched environmental zoning ordinances.

-Submitted report to Bordentown City regarding potential environmental impact of Conectiv Power Plant proposal. One BCEC member subsequently selected to represent Bordentown City on Assemblyman Joe Malone's Regional Environmental Committee (ongoing).

-Investigated Burlington County open space tax issues and explored feasibility of local (Bordentown City) open space tax.

-Invited Guest Speaker Cathy Elliot-Shaw (NJ-DEP) to speak to BCEC at regular meeting. Topic: "NJ-DEP Green Acres Program".

V-Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

-Began the process of creating an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) for Bordentown City. Developed a list of criteria for ERI.

-Obtained Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software from NJ-DEP, to be employed as planning tool for Environmental Resource Inventory and assistance with Master Plan review process.

-Participated in guided tour of Bordentown Water Treatment facility. Report to be included in ERI. Tour of Bordentown Sewerage Treatment facility tentatively planned for early 2003.

VI- Grants:

-Submitted to NJ-DOT, on behalf of Bordentown City, a proposal for the Livable Communities Grant Program (no City matching funds required). Proposal seeks 3 bus shelters and 9 bicycle racks for installation in Bordentown City, in an effort to promote a more healthy and environmentally sustainable environment for Bordentown City residents. Notification of grant awards expected in spring 2003.