

## Summary of Kinnelon Green Team Activities 2012-2013

The Green Team worked together to identify and implement appropriate actions for Kinnelon to apply to Sustainable Jersey for Municipal Certification. Carol Vreeland's role was to identify, implement, write and upload actions suitable for Kinnelon's certification application. Councilman Gary Moleta's role as council liaison was to present resolutions and pledges to Mayor Collins and the Council and the Borough Attorney for their review and approval. Nina Mickey's role was to aid in planning and attending events and also to promote public support for the actions. The committee had already begun working on the Stonybrook School Garden as its first Sustainable Jersey action. Vreeland and Mickey worked with the teacher and children planning, planting and helping to care for the school garden. This project continues to this day and received an Environmental Achievement Honorable Mention Award from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions in 2012 as well as an article written about the school garden in the Summer 2012 ANJEC Report.

The next large project was an Environmental Resource Update. Carol Vreeland of the Environmental Commission and Barbara Davis of The Land Conservancy-New Jersey made a presentation at the Kinnelon Mayor and Council meeting in March, 2012 to request permission to pursue an ERI Update. The EC would apply for an ANJEC grant of \$5,000 to be matched by \$5,000 from the Open Space Trust Fund. Both requests were granted. Carol Vreeland was appointed municipal liaison to ANJEC and TLC-NJ and Nina Mickey and Vreeland were appointed as team leaders. Both worked closely with TLC-NJ to complete an ERI Update which best represented the natural features of Kinnelon.

Councilman Gary Moleta introduced the Environmentally Conscious Grounds and Maintenance Policy, The Sustainable Land Use Pledge and the Pledge for New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan to the Mayor and Council. He worked diligently with the Borough Attorney to adapt the accompanying resolutions to fit our community and fulfill Sustainable Jersey requirements. Gary has also worked at many environmental events in Kinnelon over the past two years.

Carol Vreeland began a campaign to reduce single plastic bag usage by providing a pledge to reduce usage and a Kinnelon Green Team BYOBag giveaway to signees. The Green Team members had a table while attending a showing of a movie named "Bag It" to begin its campaign and also had a table at the Kinnelon Conserves Earth Day Fair to continue to promote the reduction of plastic bag usage. Green Team members will continue to pursue this important initiative. Other activities included K-Fest, Drug Take Back Information, and Environmental Commission information tables at the Earth Day Fair and Kinnelon Arts and Crafts Fair.

Two ANJEC Roadshows were organized by the Kinnelon Green Team. The first was on October 25, 2012 and the topics were "Sustainable Communities and "Gorilla Marketing for Environmental Commissions". The second roadshow is planned for May 22, 2013. The topics for the second event are "Municipal Actions to Foster Sustainability" and "Open Space Stewardship". Both events were held at Kinnelon Borough Hall.

The Kinnelon Green Team has also worked with John Whitehead, Superintendent of the Kinnelon Department of Public Works on Sustainable Jersey actions such as the Recycling Depot, Recycling and Composting, Water Conservation and Efficient Landscape Design.

The Green Team Members work very well together and have accumulated 140 points toward Sustainable Jersey Municipal certification and have another 20 points almost completed. They plan to be ready to submit for “bronze” Sustainable Jersey Certification in June of 2013. They will continue to work at projects already implemented and identify new actions in the coming year.