

**Montclair Environmental Commission Meeting**  
**February 11, 2015 @ 7:30 PM**

**Attending:** Lyle Landon (Co-chair), Corliss Sprung (Co-chair), Jerry Fried, Keith Brodock, Siobhan McCarthy, Gray Russell, Martin Schwartz

**Guests:** Stephanie Spangler (Resident), Sean Spiller

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

The January minutes and revised 2015 Goals document will be sent out by e-mail.

**Announcements:**

- The Solar Homes Montclair event will be held tomorrow at the Fire Headquarters Community Room, 1 Pine Street (7:00-9:00 PM). Free parking will be available in the adjacent deck.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Waste Management & Recycling:**

- CS sent an e-mail to the Sustainable Jersey for Schools (SJS) contact regarding recycling. A resolution was passed to participate in SJS, and the primary participant will be the Bullock School.
- Discussion of the trip to the Atlantic Fibers MRF on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Interesting points include:
  - Much of the materials are re-sold domestically.
  - When prices increase, dual-stream is more valuable due to less contamination. For now, recycling will still be collected as single-stream (co-mingled).
  - Plastic bag contamination is a huge problem. Plastic bags contaminate the machinery, although Montclair is fairly good about this.
  - We need to continue to educate the public on what is recyclable curb-side, and what is still recyclable, but must be brought to the recycling center on North Fullerton.
  - We may want to look into getting a tour of the incinerator in Newark.

**Water and Open Space (Gray Russell, Lyle Landon):**

- Water Connection insurance: LL spoke with Gary Obszarny regarding whether this insurance is necessary. According to Gary, there is a very small chance that this would be necessary.

- Green Acres: Regarding the property at 15 Lenape Trail, the landowner needs to contact Green Acres directly to get designation for the property. They may be pursuing getting Green Acres designation, but retaining ownership of the property.
- Essex County environmental Commission is going to run an event regarding Green Acres & open space designations on [date in March]. Several open space groups will be represented there.

**Trees (Deb Ellis, Barbara Hedeem):** *Absent, no report.*

**Energy Use & Efficiency (Gray Russell):**

- Aggregation project is currently stalled, as the resolution to hire the consultant (Gabel Associates) has not yet been passed and has not reappeared on the Town Council agenda since being pulled in December.
- LL will draft an additional resolution for next month's meeting to reassert the MEC's desire to get the resolution passed.
- GR will send KB a copy of the resolution, and KB will draft a letter on behalf of the MEC to the Council, urging that the vote on the resolution be put back on their agenda ASAP.

**MEC Website (Siobhan McCarthy):**

- A Google Calendar has been added to the website; please send any calendar invites to [webmaster@mtcenv.org](mailto:webmaster@mtcenv.org).
- Currently posts are being cross-posted from the website to the social media accounts. Once there, please share links accordingly.
- We can investigate a mailing list if desired, but the website already has a feature to sign up for e-mail notification of new posts. A mailing list (for calls for volunteers, event announcements, etc.) would be a separate project.

**MEC Budget (Lyle Landon, Gray Russell):**

- The \$2000 budget has been approved, but is still not a separate line item. Once the town budget passes we should have access to the budget.
- As a separate line item, it will still fall under the Health Department.

**Discussion**

**Relationship Building and Communication:**

- Sustainable Jersey Essex Hub event on 2/10. LL, GR, CS and KB were in attendance. The event focused on communication between Green Teams, commissions, municipalities, etc.

- The recommendations were very general about community involvement, but not environment specific.
- There was a lot of good information, and they will provide feedback to the event organizers.
- Focused on branding and also clarifying the mission of the organization: What does the community want us to be? Who do we want to be?
- All commissioners should look at community calendars to decide if there are events that the MEC should try to participate in; these events will be added to the MEC calendar.
- Possible opportunities might be tabling at the Farmer's Market, TV34, or building a presence at other organization events.
- We may want to create a contact list for soliciting volunteers, etc.

**FEMA Community Resource Services/Floodplain Management:**

- CS will get in contact with Kimberly Craft.

**MSU (Lyle Landon, Corliss Sprung):** No update

**Sustainable Jersey:**

- KB and JF discussed Sustainable Jersey points with GR to discuss how the MEC can help with the achievements and other interactions with SJ.
- Can we get Montclair to a higher status in Sustainable Jersey? (Silver certification is at 350, we had 310 during the last certification.)
- We are up for certification again in 2016, and should work on a plan to approach re-certification.
- Ideally, volunteers will take up the smaller actions; some actions may have already been completed in Montclair, but had not been documented for SJ yet.

**Tree Ordinance (further discussion):**

- Martin Schwartz: Scott Kevelson has asked about the status of the tree enforcement ordinance.
- The MEC may want to write a letter to the Council to ask that the ordinance be enforced according to the wording in the resolution.

**Complete Streets\* (Jerry Fried):**

- Successful Pedestrian Safety meeting on 2/10. (*\*Not formal goal for 2015.*)

**Education Subcommittee & Community Learning Fair:**

- Bill Hurlock will need volunteers for the Spring Cleanup event; details to follow.

- The purpose of this subcommittee is for chairs of committees and commissions to report to the councilors to give updates about what is going on in each committee. They've been taking on more projects recently.
- CS and SM attended the fair planning meeting with Tim Barr. A date has not been set, but the MEC will participate as a table.

**ANJEC Workshop:** March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Essex County Environmental Center; cost is included in the MEC membership dues so anyone who is able to should attend.

**Planning Board (Sean Spiller):** The MEC should look at parameters that the MEC would like to see for the new development (e.g. low flow water fixtures for water conservation) to suggest that the planning board include in new planning guidelines. Local codes are allowed to be more strict than state codes (within reason). KB had previously gone over a checklist with Janice Talley, and will revisit this. The state can always be called for information on building codes as well. LEED certification is also points based, and can be compared to existing codes or what new codes we could propose.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.