

# Montclair Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

## December 9, 2015

**Facilitator:** Lyle Landon and Imke Oster

**Type of Meeting:** Monthly

**Note Taker:** Keith Brodock

**Voting Attendees:** Lyle Landon (Co-Chair), Imke Oster (Co-Chair), Barbara Hedeem, James Sherman, Keith Brodock (Planning Board/MEC Liaison), Siobhan McCarthy, Jessica Stolzberg (Alternate #1);

**Non-Voting Attendees:** Gray Russell (Township Liaison); Alternate #2 – open position

**Guests:** Suzanne Aptman, Nick D'Ambrosio

### Meeting Called to Order at 7:35PM

### Introductions, Announcements, and Guests

### Sunshine Law Announcement

### Minutes from November 2015 Adopted

### Calendar:

- Montclair Green Film Series to continue in 2016 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month)
  - Completed the 7<sup>th</sup> year of films; 64 films shown to date
  - Seeking continued funding for screening rights (\$75-\$300 per screening; approximately \$2,400 per year)

### Outreach Activity:

- MSU Rising Tide events completed
  - Environmental events were well-attended
- Essex County Environmental Meeting and Essex County Holiday Party 12.7.15

### Discussion Topics:

- 2016 Election – Forum for Q&A for candidates
  - Previously, an interfaith environmental coalition organized a Q&A session for Montclair Township Council candidates
  - The Environmental Commission would consider supporting a similar event
    - Suggest Sunday, April 24, 2016
- Accomplishments for 2015
  - Trees
    - Community Forestry Management Plan was approved by the State of New Jersey
    - Montclair entered into an agreement with US Fish and Wildlife Service to reforest Township parks
      - 2015 planting (with deer protection): Bonsal Preserve, Carey's Woods, Canterbury Park.
    - Montclair Tree Giveaway (450 trees)
  - Waste Management
    - Public library installed paper recycling bins
    - Public library re-using paper for printing
  - Energy Use & Efficiency
    - Completed RFP for Community Energy Aggregation (with Township Council)
    - Sold Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) totaling \$100,000

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- o Outreach & Involvement
  - Supported Bullock Green Fair
  - Increased website & Facebook traffic
  - Connected with MSU environmental group
  - Hosted environmental group roundtable (Green Drinks)
- Goals for 2016
  - o Trees
    - Prepare a tree canopy coverage estimate
    - Identify a tree canopy goal
    - Implement tree ordinance enforcement
  - o Waste Management
    - Establish a relationship with the Board of Education or individual schools to support their environmental initiatives (e.g. Sustainable Jersey for Schools) and recycling efforts (Landon, Oster)
    - Partner with the business community to increase recycling and reduce plastic bag and Styrofoam use. (McCarthy and Stolzberg)
  - o Energy Use & Efficiency
    - Support the Township Council to pass the ordinance hiring the Community Energy Aggregation consultant (at no cost)
    - Implement leaf blower ordinance enforcement
  - o Outreach & Involvement
    - Meet with BIDs to discuss greening the business districts
    - Regular Green Drinks events
  - o General
    - Support Bullock Green Fair (Hedeen)
      - Demonstrate composting
    - Hire a consultant to prepare a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) (Brodock)
    - Implement green building policy/ordinance (Hedeen, Brodock)
      - Consider water-specific ordinances such as low-flow fixtures
- Budget Request for 2016 (to be determined whether these will be included in the Environmental Commission budget or in other Township department budgets)
  - o Tree replanting - \$150,000
  - o Tree inventory for public trees - \$200,000 over six years (under consideration)
    - Year 1: Pilot Study (\$20,000)
    - Years 2-5: Inventory one ward per year
    - Year 6: Operations & Maintenance for first year
  - o Enforcement of tree ordinance - \$10,400
    - Four additional hours per week from the Township Arborist (assumed \$50/hr)
  - o Carbon Footprint Measurement - \$8,700
  - o TV34 Green Programming - \$7,000

**Meeting adjourned at 9:57PM.**