

Montclair Environmental Commission Meeting

March 11, 2015 @ 7:30 PM

Voting Attendees: Lyle Landon (Co-Chair), Corliss Sprung (Co-Chair), James Sherman, Barbara Hedeem, Deborah Ellis, Keith Brodock (Alternate #1), Siobhan McCarthy (Alternate #2)

Non-Voting Attendee: Gray Russell (Township Liaison)

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm

Introductions, Announcements, and Guests

Announcements:

- Green Film Series: “Nuclear Savage: The Islands of Secret Project 4.1” will be shown on Thursday, March 19, 6:30 pm, at the Montclair Public Library.
- Essex County Hub: “Get Schooled Social Mixer” will be Wednesday, March 25, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, at McLoone’s Boat House, 9 Cherry Lane, West Orange, NJ (registration required.)
- Putting Sustainability to Work: Emergent Professional Careers: Event at Montclair State on March 27, 8:30-12:30pm. 1st panel is for Private Sector Jobs (Lyle Landon is panelist); 2nd panel is Social Entrepreneurs, Gov. Agencies and Non-profits (Gray Russell is panelist.)
- Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions (ANJEC Workshop) will be on Saturday, March 28, 9:00am – 1:30pm, Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ.
- BH: The next Hillside Swap is on April 11th, 9-11am. Donations can be dropped off at Hillside the day before.
- GR: The Essex County Environmental Commission is holding a round table for all of the county commissions. Monday, April 6th on Open Space (see flier.) It will be held at the Verona Boathouse (7-9pm).
- DE: Lenape Trail walk on April 18 at 9:30 [Update: The Lenape Trail walk will be on April 11th at 1:30pm, following the Tree Giveaway - SM]
- 2015 Tree Giveaway – Saturday, 4/11, 9:00am – 12:00am, at Edgemont Park, Montclair. In case of thunderstorms, Sunday will be the rain date.
 - BH, CS and SM volunteered to assist.
 - Steve Shuckman submitted the application in to the state forester to request 500 trees (species TBD.)
 - DE will contact the Parks Department to coordinate use of the park, and coordinate with the Master Gardeners to set up an educational table.

Subcommittee Reports

Waste Management and Recycling (Barbara Hedeem, Lyle Landon, Deb Ellis, Corliss Sprung):

- LL met with the Central Business District representative (Lisa Johnson). The members of the CBD are split on interest in looking into green business practices (i.e. some would only be interested if the customers were looking for it), but many want to know more. LL will be meeting with the Upper Montclair Business District representatives tomorrow.
- Discussion of the local statute and state laws regarding business recycling.
- CS: Regarding recycling in the schools -- Schools collect juice pouches, markers, foil-wraps, aluminum beverage containers, and others. Bottle caps were being collected, but the company who was taking them (Aveda) is no longer able to, so they are lobbying for the municipal recycling centers to take them. They are now trying to upcycle the bottle caps into an art project. They also make use of reusable plates, mugs, etc. for events when able, which are washed by volunteers. It's important to have the support of the custodians when using reusable products. Now that the BoE approved of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools initiative, it's just a matter of time before all schools are on board. Edgemont will be applying for certification next.
- GR: will contact Covanta to see if we would be able to take a tour of the incinerator.
- GR: Shred-Fest will be on May 30th (9am-1pm). We get one free shredding event per year, additional events can be paid for, so we may want to look in to getting donations of \$10/car to subsidize a second event. HomeCorps will also be having a shredding event as a fundraiser.

Water and Open Spaces (Gray Russell, Lyle Landon)

- No updates since February.

Trees (Deb Ellis, Barbara Hedeem):

- Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) (BH): There were some errors in the state's evaluation of the CFMP, but the CFMP was failed because of the lack of a plan regarding pruning the hazardous trees. However, we cannot plan for pruning before we do the inventory. BH and DE will come up with a response letter to the state's concerns.
- Inventory: No inventory updates.
- Tree Give Away Project (see above)

Tree Ordinance (James Sherman)

- JS: It's not the role of the MEC to enforce the ordinance as the MEC does not have the authority to do so (the current ordinance puts the onus on the tree contractors.) JS will meet with either Steve Wood or the town attorney about enforcement.

Energy Use and Efficiency (Gray Russell, Lyle Landon)

- KB drafted letter to the Mayor regarding the retention of a Community Energy Aggregation consultant (Gabel Associates) and circulated it by e-mail to the MEC. The letter will be sent pending edits discussed.
- GR: The solar event was very successful, with 85 attendees (over double than what was expected.) Four solar companies, two installation companies, and PSE&G were represented. GR was also

contacted afterward by residents who couldn't make it for information. Leasing vs. buying were the main topics discussed.

MEC Website (Siobhan McCarthy)

- Collaborating with Stephanie Spangler on writing a FAQ on recycling for the MEC website. Please ask around if anyone has ideas for FAQ. Additional ideas for the FAQ will also be compiled from online comments found on social media re: Montclair recycling.
- Please spread links to social media accounts as these have a further reach than website announcements.

Discussion Topic: Commissioner Job and Volunteer Job Descriptions

- We should add a description of what the commission/commissioners do, which would be helpful in recruiting volunteers. To be discussed at a future meeting (see handout). Read and send comments to LL.

Non-Subcommittee Reports

FEMA's Community Resource Services (KB): No additional updates.

Sustainable Jersey (JF, KB, GR): No additional updates.

Montclair Community Learning Fair/Educational Sub-Committee (CS, SM): A date has not yet been set. The ESC should meet this month, CS will get further updates after the meeting.

New Business Resolutions – Town Council's Consent Agenda

Questions for Sean Spiller regarding the following resolutions (LL):

1. Resolution authorizing application for a loan from the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program for the construction of a 1 mg water tank to replace a previously demolished water tank (R_15_046).
2. Resolution authorizing application for a loan from the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program for sanitary sewer collection rehabilitation (R_15_047).

(These questions may be more appropriate for Gary Obzsarny.)

Meeting adjourned.