

Montclair Environmental Commission

October Meeting Minutes

10/09/24 @ 7:30pm

EC Members Present: Suzanne Aptman, Bill Martens, Ruchi Misra, Imke Oster, Alison Tribus

Montclair Township Presence: Lisa Johnson (Township Liaison), Susan Shin-Anderson (Councilor), Eileen Birmingham (Councilor)

Approval September 2024 Minutes

Vote postponed.

Reports/Updates (input/decision/action needed or action completed)

- Invasive plant ordinance
 - Councilor Anderson requested policy on invasive Wisteria; it is encroaching on a neighbor's property and there is no ordinance specific to wisteria.
 - Instead of amending the current invasive bamboo ordinance; will create a separate ordinance and include other invasives.
 - Next Steps: Bill will draft up and share with the group.

- Ordinance restricting single-use food establishment waste (SKIP the STUFF)
 - Lisa mentioned that restaurants are generally on board.
 - Community/stakeholder engagement: Survey to be drafted and sent to restaurants. Will see if the Health Dept. can do this outreach.
 - Restaurants should span diversity of cuisine and size (single unit vs chain)
 - Currently \$1000 in the budget and must be used by December.
 - Next steps: Councilor Birmingham suggests using Madison's outreach survey and creating one for Montclair. Work on getting the Ordinance passed by the end of 2024.

- EV Fleet for Municipality
 - Discussion to convert Montclair's Municipal fleet to Electric Vehicles
 - Install Level 1 or 2 chargers.
 - Next Steps: Suzanne to organize a call with Council, MCA.

- Tree update
 - Proposal for updating Montclair's Shade Tree Ordinance is in development. Was put on hold by DCA, Council Transition. Need to re-engage that process.

Research West Orange's policy. A business was fined \$2K per tree and 200 trees were removed.

- Next Steps: Imke scheduled a meeting on Tree issues in October with DCA to discuss public tree planting and pruning.

- Climate Action Plan
 - Lisa will be doing a quarterly progress update.

- Updates from Lisa Johnson
 - Applying for a solid waste grant in November that can be used for compost. Organizing a stormwater utility feasibility study.
 - Planted a native garden at the Crescent Deck.

- Dredging of Edgemont Park
 - If Edgemont Park isn't dredged in the near future, it will start to stink. We need to find funds to dredge the pond. Funds that were allocated to this were redirected to streets.

Next Meeting: November 6, 2024 at 7:30pm