

Montclair Environmental Commission MINUTES (Final) – Jan 13, 2021
email info@mtcenv.org for the Zoom link

Type of Meeting: Monthly
Facilitator: Ben Rich
Note Taker: Nicol Sobczyk
Voting Commissioners: Ben Rich
(Co-Chair), Suzanne Aptman
(Co-Chair), Nicol Sobczyk (Secretary)
Lyle Landon, Keith Brodock (Planning
Liaison), Janine Salvador (Webmaster)
Absent: Imke Oster

Alternates: Mac Carbonnell, Bill
Martens (proposed)
Associates: Bill Martens
Montclair Liaison - Gray Russell,
Montclair Sustainability Officer
Township Council Liaison: Sean
Spiller, Mayor
Guests: Peter Holm, [Benjamin Bright](#),
[Janine Cox](#), [Judith \(Quiet Montclair\)](#)

Call the meeting to order: Time [7:32pm](#)

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

7:30 - Welcome & Introductions Ben

7:35 - Approval December 2020 Minutes - Nicol; [unanimously approved. \(Link\)](#)

7:40 - Reports/Updates

1. Reorganizing: - Ben & Suzanne
 - a. Commission & Committee goals/projects (committees to discuss/suggest by next meeting or so)
 - i. Suzanne's suggestions:
 1. [Keep in mind the volunteer spirit of MEC.](#)
 2. [Make the goals ambitious, but not unrealistic.](#)
 3. [Emissions reductions and true environmental impacts.](#)
 4. [Metrics and measures of success.](#)
 - ii. [Montclair 2021 goals TBD; will be budget oriented.](#)
 1. [Montclair does have GHG reduction goals / metrics \(TBC\). Energy committee to include in 2021 goals accordingly.](#)
 - iii. [Next steps:](#)
 1. [Committees to meet offline and set proposed goals. Send to Ben and Suzanne to ensure alignment and create master list to discuss at meeting. Target - prior to Feb mtg](#)
 - b. Suggested Committee names tweaks (By-Law modification required/vote)
 - i. [Names \(already modified in By-Laws Jan 13\)](#)
 1. [Communication \(Janine, Lyle, Nicole\): Facebook, Instagram, Website.](#)
 2. [Energy Conservation & Transportation \(Ben, Gray, Bill, Suzanne\): clean energy. aggregation, gas powered cars and machinery, alternative transportation - electric, bikes.](#)
 3. [Green Development & Site Plan Review \(Ben, Mac, Bill\): Site plans; green checklist; efficient buildings.](#)
 4. [Recycling & Waste Reduction \(Janine, Nicole, Lyle\): recycling, plastic bag ban, waste reduction \(e.g.composting\).](#)
 5. [Trees & Natural Resources \(Suzanne, Imke, Mac\): trees, water, natural resources.](#)

- ii. Voted to put names specified above in the by-laws.
- c. By-Laws require 2021 Meeting Schedule established (discuss -1st wed of month as new date/vote)
 - i. Voted to make modifications for reappointment rules. Confirmed changed in By-Laws Jan 13.
 - ii. Voted to move meetings to 1st Wednesdays of the month @ 7:30pm; Nicol to advise town with updated calendar for 2021 accordingly.
 - 1. August 2021 meeting to be cancelled.
- 2. Website, other - Janine
 - a. Finalizing next steps in January.
- 3. Township budget - Suzanne
 - a. Goal: MEC to advocate (via letter to council) for / support initiatives. Suzanne will send email request with specifics to Commissioners before next meeting.
- 4. Site Plan Review - plan received - Ben, Mac, Bill
 - a. Tony's Kitchen - door change; reusing the concrete. No proposed modifications.
- 5. Planning board meeting Stormwater Mgmt/Complete SAFE Streets - Keith, Suzanne, Ben
 - a. Suzanne presented stormwater mgt actions and proposed things such as:
 - 1. Asking consideration of day lighting streams.
 - 2. Prioritize recommended actions including native vegetation.
 - 3. Consider impervious surfaces for pedestrian surfaces (not just vehicles).
 - ii. Planning board asked for ideas in writing, to be red-lined into ordinance.
 - iii. Next step: Suzanne will share with Natural Resource committee to review changes before sending to Commission/Planning Board.
 - iv. NOTE: Council must vote on Jan 19, so it was too late to include MEC changes before that vote. Will look to add as an amendment later.
 - b. Planning Board Application - 70 Park Street:
 - i. Asking to increase impervious coverage.
 - ii. Members required no net increase in stormwater runoff in condition of approval.
 - c. Lyle update: Governor's office will require climate change considerations in future master plans.
- 6. Sustainability Office - Gray
 - a. Residential energy aggregation program:
 - i. Enabling all residents in Montclair to use 2x the amount of renewable energy (~40%) vs rest of NJ (20%).
 - 1. 10% (~1400) homes opted out of the program.
 - 2. Potential opportunity for pro-active education in appropriate Facebook groups, media.
 - ii. Cooperative purchase made in 2019 to boost purchase of renewable energy (40%) with 10% savings.
 - 1. NOTE: 20% of all energy must come from renewable energy sources.
 - iii. Renewal targeting April 2021.
 - 1. Expanded to 2 more towns.
 - 2. Will be PJM generated (wind or solar or low impact hydro or landfill gas that's generated in NJ/PA/OH/DE/MD)
 - 3. Savings = 1.5%.
 - 4. Double the clean energy at no additional cost.
 - 5. Largest clean energy program in NJ.
 - iv. Gray requested 300 LED bulbs to give away to Montclair residents.

- v. Note: opportunities to go to 100% renewable energy for ~\$10 per month per household. Will be highlighted in communications to the public by town, as pointed out by Mayor Spiller.
 - b. Municipal town buildings were part of energy savings. \$60k annual savings. No longer valid. Cancelled due to accounting issues.
 - 1. To explore reinstating.
 - c. Events 2021 expected to be cancelled based on current state of COVID.
 - i. Shred Fest April 2021
 - ii. Repair Cafe
 - iii. EV Event.
 - d. Community Solar - in the pipe. To be discussed in Community Climate group meeting (organized by David Korfhage).
7. Styrofoam Recycling - Lyle
- a. With single use plastic bag, Styrofoam clamshells will also be banned effective May 2022.
 - b. Fairlawn, Springfield - both offer styrofoam drives.
 - c. Waste in Montclair goes to an incinerator in Newark.
 - d. To be discussed further at the Recycling & Waste Reduction committee.
8. Reminder of rules for distribution of agendas and minutes:
- a. No later than 48 hours prior to a meeting, Co-Chair will share draft agenda electronically with the Commissioners for comment.
 - b. Final agendas for meetings shall be posted by the Chairpersons or Secretary, in a conspicuous place, no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
 - c.
9. Solar Panels on Schools - Lyle.
- a. Scope of install TBD.

Calendar

Feb 11-13 Northeast Earth Coalition Event

Mar 2 – Stormwater management ordinance implementation. (Council approves it 1/19)

Adjournment 9pm

Next Meeting: Feb 3, 7:30pm EST

Note Taker Nicol Sobczyk

Zoom Meeting information:

Topic: Montclair Environmental Commission Monthly

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84270255919?pwd=V0UvL1ZFekZnU3NSS2RPQjBaVnczdz09>

Meeting ID: 842 7025 5919

Passcode: MEC_2020

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