

Montclair Environmental Commission **MINUTES** – May 5, 2021

Type of Meeting: Monthly

Facilitator: Ben Rich

Commission Secretary: Nicol Sobczyk

Voting Commissioners: Suzanne Aptman (Co-Chair), Ben Rich (Co-Chair), Nicol Sobczyk (Secretary),

Keith Brodock (planning board member & liaison), Janine Salvador (Webmaster), Imke Oster

Excused: Lyle Landon

Alternates: Bill Martens, Mac Carbonell

Montclair Liaison - Gray Russell, Montclair Sustainability Officer

Township Council Liaison: Mayor Sean Spiller

Guests: Pedro Luna, Victoria Luna, Eleni Luna, Christina Luna, Adamantia Luna, Peter Holm (Quiet Montclair), Sally Ellyson (volunteer with NJ Audubon Society)

Call the meeting to order: Time 7:36pm.

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

7:30 - Welcome & Introductions – Ben

7:35 - Approval April 2021 Minutes – Nicol. Approved.

7:40 - Reports/Updates (input, action needed/completed)

1. General: Sustainable Jersey Special Committee (leads: Janine, Keith, Suzanne)
 - a. Goal for today: Vote to establish a special committee that would do Sustainable Jersey work. Benefit: organize for sustainability points; help guide alignment with mec work. This is an iteration of a historical committee; just formalizing as per by-laws.
 - b. Committee could target to create a "Green team" or hopefully MEC be the Green Team since it is only a requirement for certification. Makes it easier/efficient. Some towns have EC as Green Team.
 - c. Certification levels = bronze or silver. Process for certification takes 2-3 years; effective for 3-4 years.
 - d. MEC will collaborate with new Enviro Coordinator: June 2022 is when next certification period takes place.
 - e. Commission voted in favor of establishing the Sustainable Jersey Committee.
2. Energy:
 - a. May 15th Leaf Blower Deadline
 - i. Target: communication around upcoming deadline on gas-powered leaf blowers.
 - ii. Concerns with enforcement during the weekends.
 - iii. Township could send a notice to the registered landscapers in town.
 - iv. MEC action; Communication work with Energy Cttee on --
 1. Blog post (see one posted already)
 2. Instagram
 3. Possibility to mirror fliers used in other towns
 - b. EV Ordinance (SJ - EV Friendly Town)
3. Site Plan & Green Buildings:
 - a. Lackawanna Development
 - b. Meeting w/ Bike/Walk Montclair
4. Trees & Natural Resources:
 - a. Tree seedlings giveaway: big success; gave away over 250 seedlings
 - b. Water pump re-plantings – trees have been removed at Lorraine Park by DeNovo. Looking at planting native trees.
 - c. Yard care: 6-week campaign around "all 7 best practices" ... would be collected via form. Awareness campaign around yards that conserve water, air pollution,, etc.
 - i. Arbor Day would be the platform to launch it.
 - ii. 250 people's yards would be the initiation.
 - iii. Suzanne to launch.
5. Waste: Styrofoam
 - a. Approval for 8 consecutive Saturdays of Styrofoam recycling at DPW lot, starting June 5.
 - b. Sign up for volunteering here: sign-up sheet
6. Mayor Spiller: Board of Ed to evaluate in-house bussing program. MEC Energy Committee would consult re: electric buses.

Calendar

6/1-6/5 NJ Bike Walk Summit

Adjournment 8:41pm

Next Meeting: June 2, 2021

Note Taker Nicol Sobczyk