

## Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, March 8, 2021 @ 7:00 pm  
(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

### MINUTES

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**Members:** Reade Kem (Chair), Laura Kosik, Noah Packman, Priya Patel, Mark Robison, Odarka Stockert, Roger Timpson, Elizabeth Vollavanh  
Absent: Jorge Mastropietro

**Township Committee Liaison:** Maggee Miggins

**Secretary:** Carolyn Scannelli

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

#### Commission Business:

- a) Open public meeting statement: *This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6-10: 4-21. Notice of this meeting has been published in the Item of Millburn and Short Hills, and on Tap as filed by the Environmental Commission and on bulletin board at Millburn Town Hall*
- b) **Master Plan Environmental Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations:**
  - i. Protect and manage critical environmental resources in the township.
  - ii. Improve the quality of life for residents.
  - iii. Minimize the environmental impact of the township on the environment.
- c) Acceptance of February 8, 2022, minutes – Roger Timpson motioned to accept the minutes Mark Robison 2<sup>nd</sup>, others in attendance who are eligible to vote are in favor.
- d) Treasurer Report – Starting balance \$2500.00, current balance \$2125.00. Payment to ANJEC for membership. Going forward Roger will give the Treasurer report.

**Public Comment - N/A**

#### Communication

- a. Millburn Green Team liaison (MR) – No minutes to report from. Two subcommittee initiatives,
  1. Greenhouse Reduction Team – compiling a handbook for residents with tips to reduce greenhouse gas emission footprint. State-wide Ordinance – Model greenhouse information sent to Mayor Miggins, EV Infrastructure Zoning Changes.
  2. Native Plants Appreciation Month - Proposed Proclamation reading at the April 5 Township Committee meeting. Would like MEC members to volunteer for events planned in April. Calendar events listed at end of minutes.
- b. Millburn High School E-Club (NP) – Drafted an email to Washington School Principal regarding Aquafest, this will be sent out on 3/11/22. Preparing Aquafest supplies. Aquafest scheduled for beginning of June. Noah will confirm with Roger regarding a guest speaker presentation at Aquafest. Noah will confirm with Priya regarding new enrollment applications for the Food Waste Recycling Pilot. Noah will announce on the school PA open enrollment for Food Waste Recycling Pilot.
- c. Millburn Township Green Schools Team (PP) – No update
- d. Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board – Reade will follow up to see if someone can provide reports on this topic.
- e. Bike Walk Millburn (JM) – No report
- f. Shade Tree Advisory Board (EV) – Jane Greenwald spoke at the last Township Committee meeting giving a tribute to the American Elm tree, which there are thirty-five remaining in the township. The

American Elm tree located at the Taylor Park entrance will be protected when work begins at the park. They are also working on a list of native street trees to recommend to Tom to add to the Tree Preservation Ordinance.

**Township Committee Report (MM)** – Upcoming meeting, March 29<sup>th</sup>, for the gateway park initiative (gateway entrance/rose garden). Blacktop surrounding the American Elm tree in Taylor Park will be removed and replaced with mulch. The town has received complaints about the invasive Bamboo plant. Reade Kem discussed at the Township Committee meeting invasive plants including Bamboo. The Township Committee is discussing ways to control invasive plants including Bamboo. DPW site has been finalized for Fairshare housing. Soil there shows no contamination, only historic fill that will be removed, no oil tanks, no pcb's.

Update on Rahway River – Mayor's Rahway River Council Meeting Friday, March 11. The Flood Mitigation Committee is planning a presentation which will show flood control in 2D technology.

The township along with RPM will hold a discussion on the DPW affordable housing development site, March 10 at Millburn Middle School.

**Planning Board Report (JM)** – Reade reported – An application for a Morris Turnpike office building was discussed. The builder is looking into using sustainable features, although approval is not contingent on them doing so.

**Zoning Board Report (LK)** – Laura attended by zoom the March 7<sup>th</sup> Zoning Board meeting and reported that four (4) applications were memorialized, and they also reviewed the following applications.

- 1) relocation of an air conditioning unit – (approved) and request to install circular driveway – (denied).
- 2) proposed addition for front yard setback and a garage – approved contingent on planting 6 trees in the backyard.
- 3) proposed addition – unknown if approved, as it was 8:30 and Laura needed to sign off.

Priya posed a question regarding 132 Millburn Avenue (old gas station). There was no mention of this site at the Zoning Board meeting. After much discussion by MEC members regarding environmental concerns and property development, it was decided that this topic will be added to the agenda. Odarka indicated that she will look into this property as she lives in close proximity.

## Old Business

- a) Native & Invasive Plants Resolution (OS) – Additional clarification was discussed as to the viewpoint of the Township Committee, as this resolution was to bring awareness to the Township Committee. The Township Committee is still reviewing. A list of plants will be created. Street trees will also be added.
- b) Stormwater Management/Green Infrastructure Ordinance (EV) – Liz stated the NJDEP required townships to pass an ordinance for "flood control, ground water recharge and pollutant reduction should be achieved through green infrastructure for projects 1 acre or more, the idea of the enhanced ordinance was to apply to smaller properties. Martha seems to be reluctant to approved and rather educate and use a grading plan design checklist and use green infrastructure. Martha will inform the Township Committee of her view. Liz will review what other neighboring towns are doing and will include that information to the Township Committee.
  - a) ANJEC resolution opposing restrictions on municipalities' ability to protect from flooding (OS). Members reviewed and are in support of the ANJEC resolution. All approve by voice vote. Reade will sign and forward approval. (attached as appendix here)
- c) Food Waste Recycling Pilot (PP) – no report
- d) Whittingham Triangle Pollinator Garden (EV/OS/MR) – Ribbon cutting in April.
- e) Recycling/Waste Diversion (RK/PP) – Will continue to work on this. Not much progress with returned calls.

## **New Business**

Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm ANJEC Essex County roundtable to address topic of Leaf blowers to participate, advance registration is required, at <https://bit.ly/3rTfLwP>

Street Tree Ordinance (MR) – Mark will create a street tree/design standard presentation for the April meeting. This could lead into native plants, plant lists and may tie into designating areas in need of redevelopment.

## **Announcements/Events/Updates**

- Next MEC Meeting: Tuesday, April 12th, 7:00 PM.

Read Kem motion to adjourn, Mark Robison 2<sup>nd</sup> with all in favor.

Adjourn 8:27

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary

**Native Plants Appreciation Month**\*links to webinars will be hosted on the Millburn Township Green Team Web Page

Friday 4/1 Great Swamp Association Plant Sale begins - 12-1pm Webinar for Plants being Sold  
Purchase online only 1<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>\*

Tuesday 4/5 TC Proclamation Reading – April 2022 is Native Plant Appreciation Month in Millburn

Friday 4/8 Millburn Schools Green Team event – Webinar 1pm-2pm on using school and home yards for pollinator gardens with NJ Audubon\*

Tuesday 4/19 Friends of Millburn Library presents: Create a Monarch Waystation Webinar by Rene Paparian 7pm-8:30pm\*

Friday 4/22 Ribbon Cutting for the Community Pollinator Garden At Wittingham Triangle, 4pm  
Everyone who participated will be invited.

Saturday 4/23 Friends of Millburn Library – 3pm-4pm, Reading of *The Curious Garden*  
Sign-up through Library, limited to 16 Children to plant Milkweed Seeds

Saturday 4/23 Taylor Park  
Monarda Seedling Giveaway, Greenwood Gardens Native Plant Walk ticket giveaway, 1pm to 4pm  
Mark Robison - Native Plant Talk – 2pm

Sunday 4/24 Open House at Hartshorn Arboretum – Native Plant Walk with Focus on Ecosystem  
Dependent Insects and Animals

Saturday 4/30 – Pickup Date for Native Plant Sale - 10am-1pm Gero Park Parking Lot Pick-up of Online  
Orders form Great Swamp Association Native Plant Sale

Time TBD - Milkweed Seed Planting Activity - Founders Day – Taylor Park - in partnership with CEDA

