

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday January 8, 2019 7:30 pm

Millburn Town Hall

Minutes

Members(*liaison*):

Sarah Rosenthal, Vaclav E. Benes, *Dianne Eglow*, Lisa Chenofsky Singer, Joseph Barbanel, Alex Moaba, Edward Hizenrath, Elizabeth Vollavanh, Priya Patel, Jorge Mastropietro

Secretary: Brian Zhu

Present: Vaclav E. Benes, *Dianne Eglow*, Lisa Chenofsky Singer, Joseph Barbanel, Edward Hizenrath, Elizabeth Vollavanh, Jorge Mastropietro

Absent: Alex Moaba, Priya Patel, Sarah Rosenthal

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 as filed by the Environmental Commission and on bulletin board at Millburn Town Hall.*
- b. Meeting called to order.
 - a. 7:32 PM EST
- c. Oath of Office for new members (Hizenrath and Mastropietro) and introductions.
 - a. New members sworn in.
 - i. Edward Hizenrath: edward.hilzenram@gmail.com
 - ii. Jorge Mastropietro: jm@jmapc.com
- d. Acceptance of December 2018 minutes.
- e. Treasurers Report (Chenofsky Singer) ANJEC membership and training.
 - a. No budget approved yet for 2019. 2019 Budget should be in around April.
 - b. Secretary invoices were received in time.
 - c. Training fee for new members doesn't have to be paid for, it should be covered as part of ANJEC.
- f. 2019 Environmental Goals-Projects to be completed and new projects for 2019.
 - a. Goals
 - i. Barbanel: 3 roles
 1. Serves as standing resource for township to inform public on projects, construction, and events that make an environmental impact
 2. Ensures the township's projects follow state and federal environmental regulatory obligations
 3. Carries out community outreach and education to further environmental protection
 - ii. Vollavanh: 3 aspects of environmentalism in town
 1. Environmental Commission
 2. Green Team (runs most environmental education programs)
 3. Hartshorn Arboretum
 - b. 2019 Projects
 - i. Chenofsky Singer: South Orange, Maplewood, and Millburn have been given a grant to educate one business in each town to reduce environmental impact. This event is being hosted at La Strada
 1. A primary concern is the quantity of plastic straws being given out

Public Comments:

Township Committee: (Eglow)

- g. Could not outright ban 24 hour businesses in Millburn because cannot ban them in response to an application (the 24 hour 7-11).
- h. However, there is a way to ban 24 hour businesses under the guideline of community protection that has already been subject to judicial scrutiny. The Township Committee is now working on this.
 - a. May take a while, as the process is complex and will likely be subject to legal challenges.

Planning Board:

- a. Future Projects – Site Plan Review
 - i. Mastropietro: Pingry is proposing building a new parking lot and updating old parking lots to add new handicap spots.
 - i. They are seeking a waiver for stronger lighting and a variance for a 10-foot fence as opposed to the allowable 6-foot fence.
 1. It is unclear why one is considered a waiver and the other is considered a variance.
 - ii. They are also removing a large section of trees and planting other trees elsewhere.
- b. Master Plan Status
 - i. Accepted by the Township Committee in December, but they are making corrections. After it is fully reviewed, it will be released for public access.
 - ii. 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

Transportation:

- a. Safe Routes to School- Silver rating
- b. Bike and Walk Millburn (Available) NJ Annual Meeting February
- c. Electric Charging Stations
 - a. Alex Moaba is working on electric charging stations
 - i. Maplewood has this, but the primary concern in Millburn is determining the location of the charging stations
- d. Other

Sustainability:

- a. Green Community Aggregation Proposal with Essex County / NJ Energy (Moaba)
- b. Update Lighting Ordinance (Vollavanh)
- c. Wildflower Meadow (Vollavanh). ANJEC Grant Award Shrubs/April 2019 Exhibit at Library
 - a. Chenofsky Singer: Secured ANJEC grant meeting for planting in the meadow and an exhibit in the library in April, need to create 8 advisory boards
 - b. \$700 was allocated out of last year's budget for planting in the Wildflower Meadow
- d. Other
 - a. Plastic straw issue:
 - a. Alternatives are paper straws
 - b. Should determine future policy options for straw regulation, but starting with plastic bags
 - i. There is more pushback on straws than on bags

Communication:

- a. Green Team Liaison (Patel & Vollavanh) Single Use Plastic Resolution
 - c. The plastic bag ordinance is stuck in the State Senate
 - d. Many towns in New Jersey have passed ordinances on plastic bag fees.
- b. MHS Liaison (Rosenthal)
 - a. At Aquafest there will be an opportunity for presenters.
- c. Millburn Township Green Schools
- d. Green Faith
- e. Other

Water:

- a. Rahway Watershed Report (Vic)
- b. Stream Teams
- c. US Army Corps of Engineers
- d. Other

Meeting adjourned at: 8:49 PM EST

Next MEC Meeting: Tuesday February 12, 2019