

## Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 @ 7:00 pm  
(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

### MINUTES

---

**Members:** Roger Timpson (Chair), Kristen Brasil, Laura Kosik, Debra Nevas, Abby Packman, Priya Patel, Mark Robison, Odarka Stockert, and Elizabeth Vollavanh

**Township Committee Liaison:** Unoccupied at this time

**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) IAW Ordinance 2-29.1: “an Environmental Commission for the protection, development or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within the Township.”
- c) Swearing in of new and renewed members:
  - i. Roger Timpson
  - ii. Debra Nevas
  - iii. Elizabeth Vollavanh
  - iv. Kristen Brasil
  - v. Abigail Packman
- d) **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.
- e) Acceptance of December 13, 2022, minutes Priya Patel motioned to accept the minutes and Elizabeth Vollavanh 2<sup>nd</sup>, others in attendance who are eligible to vote are in favor.
- f) Treasurer Report – (RT) – Temporary budget balance \$656.00, once budget is passed \$2500.00.

**Public Comment** – Resident Christine Best spoke to the Commission regarding updates from Mayor Miggins and the Township Committee on 5G agenda plans and information on a consultant appointment. Roger informed Christine that as of yet, a consultant has not been formally hired. Roger also stated that the Zoning Board would also be involved in the process. Ms. Best stated that she is disappointed that the Township has not spoken about a plan of action. Ms. Best would like to bring attention to 5G small cell antennas. She would be happy to help in any way. Ms. Best also commented on Odarka’s conversation from the December meeting regarding inventory of township trees. Odarka clarified that Liz is on the Shade Tree Advisory Board. Liz will reach out to Ms. Best regarding volunteering with the tree inventory. Roger will follow up on her inquiries.

#### Communication/Updates

- a) Millburn Green Team (MR) – No update. Mark will check to see if a Chair has been appointed.
- b) Shade Tree Advisory Board (EV) – Stacie Phelps is the newly hired Forester. Ms. Phelps inquired to the Advisory board about the Arbor Day tree handout. Millburn is considered a “Tree City” by

the Arbor Day Foundation. Mark suggested checking into GIS technology for canopy coverage, regarding tree inventory, which would be an easier way to complete this project. Rutgers might be able to assist. Many Ash trees have been lost to the Emerald Ash Borer. Because of the loss of trees, Mark suggested creating a tree planting project. Liz will confirm the tree order with the Forrester and find out the type of trees and the number of trees that can be ordered and discuss the tree planting project. MEC is suggesting 1000 trees as the trees went quickly in prior years and with the additional trees a township tree planting could be planned. A few members volunteered to sort the trees for the giveaway.

- c) Millburn High School E-Club (AP) – Java food scrape project has been approved. A pilot program will run during the lunch period for March and April. All obstacles have been approved.

**Planning Board Report (DN)** – Reorganization meeting held January 4th. No new applications. Still working on the Historic Element of the Master Plan.

**Zoning Board Report (LK)** – Zoning Board meeting was tonight therefore Laura did not attend as it conflicts with the EC meeting.

### **Old Business**

- a) Native & Invasive Plants Resolution (OS) – Discussed the links on the Township EC webpage which are outdated. Ex: 2008 Invasive Plant Management Plan and the 2008 Invasive Plant Brochures. Mark and Odarka discussed updating the information on the webpage. Odarka reminded everyone that this is the time to do winter garden sowing.

**Announcements/Events** – Roger stated that in-person meetings may be resuming soon and will find out more. Possibly start March or April.

Talk about sending out an eblast to get more information out to the residents. Priya stated in the past information was sent out by tweets and with the tax bill. Mark suggested an EC member could maybe send out a monthly environmental social media post and members could share. Priya proposed a new topic of Community Outreach/Communication. Mark suggested a monthly calendar. Mark will spearhead this with Kristen and Laura.

Priya suggested for new members to look into ANJEC new member sessions. Sessions are also available on YouTube. You can phone ANJEC with your questions.

Odarka suggested members read the Environmental Inventory list that is on the EC website. Roger will check into the Environmental Inventory link for correction.

Mark Robison motioned to adjourn, Elizabeth Vollavanh 2<sup>nd</sup> with all in favor.  
Adjourn 8:18

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary

Next MEC Meeting: *Tuesday, February 7, 2023*