

## Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Wednesday, January 12, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

### MINUTES

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

**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 December 14th, minutes – Priya Patel motioned to accept the minutes, Jorge Mastropietro 2<sup>nd</sup>, others in attendance who are eligible to vote are in favor.
- d. Treasurer Report – Update on 2021 budget - All receipts have been received and sent to the Finance Department.

#### Welcome New Members and Township Committee Liaison

- Mayor Maggee Miggins introduced herself and is excited to be part of MEC.
- Oath taken by new member Laura Kosik. Laura stated that she moved to Millburn from Manhattan in 2020. She has two sons in the high school and would like to give back to the community.
- Oath taken by Mark Robison. Mark stated that he has lived in Millburn since 2009. He has a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture. Mark is Co-Chair of Millburn Creative Collective - a subcommittee of the Green Team. Has a passion for native plants and landscape design. He has worked on the Whittingham Triangle Pollinator Garden.

#### Public Comment

Township resident Liam Robins stated he did not receive a call or information back regarding last month's inquiring of the dead trees at Gero Park. Liz apologized for the oversight and will speak with the Township Forester regarding the trees and respond to him tomorrow. Mr. Robins stated that the rate of trees dying has slowed down.

#### Communication

- a. Millburn Green Team liaison (PP) –
  - a. Brainstorm meeting on 1/17/22, 7 pm regarding zero mission energy plan. (emailed link)
  - b. Partnering with Great Swamp Watershed for a native plant sale in April.
  - c. MCC coordinating with Explore Millburn.

- d. Meeting with Township Administration regarding Sustainable Jersey 3-year focus.
- b. Millburn High School E-Club (NP) –  
Priya shared that they are looking to revitalize the rain garden.  
Talked about starting a tree planting project.
- c. Millburn Township Green Schools Team (PP) –
- d. Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board (MM) – Maggee will find out who attends these meetings and will report updates.
- e. Bike Walk Millburn (JM) – No new updates.
- f. Downtown Area Vision Plan  
Taylor Park Gateway – (MR) NKW Landscape Architect – Working on finalizing contract. There will be community outreach meetings. Odarka asked about the Elm tree. Mark stated the Elm tree was critical in the planning. Liz stated that Tom said they might be able to use piers to protect the tree which is over 200 years old.  
  
Two Way Traffic - Jorge stated it would be helpful to invite someone to speak to MEC regarding updates on flood mitigation and the two-way traffic plan (Essex & Millburn Ave). Liz will reach out to Michael Jurist on the Flood Mitigation Committee and invite him to a MEC meeting.
- g. Shade Tree Advisory Board (EV) – Meeting held on 1/12/22. Working on presentation of the history of the American Elm tree to present to the Township Committee. Discussed making improvements to the Tree Preservation ordinance on removal, replanting, planting new trees and incorporating native trees. Mark stated that the ordinance needs to be policed and needs an acceptable tree list. Mark would lend his knowledge and support to the town forester. Reade stated that an educational component would help the residents. Jorge questioned if there was an ordinance that requests tree planting for new developments/construction. Odarka asked if there is a riparian zone ordinance. Jorge will do research on what other towns request and report back on this information at the next meeting.

**Township Committee Report (MM)** – Re-organization meeting held on January 4. Maggee is Liaison to Environmental, Historic Preservation, Zoning subcommittee, Planning Board, Library Board, Cora Hartshorn Arboretum and Mayors Council to Rahway River. Trying to put together a committee where the town could deal with developers up front, with reps from HPC, Zoning, Planning and EC.

**Planning Board Report (JM)** – Application for February review; 378-380 Millburn Avenue, 3 story mixed use building with retail, not LEED Certified. Sign and parking variance needed. Planning Board hopeful to address green building standards in 2022.

### Old Business

- ⇒ Native & Invasive Plants Resolution (OS) – Odarka shared that Millburn does not have a native species list, but New Jersey has a state list. This resolution is requesting actions, the ordinance will establish actions and create a native species list. MEC members will review resolution and provide feedback at the next meeting.
- ⇒ Stormwater Management/Green Infrastructure Ordinance (EH/EV) – Mike Pisauro who wrote the Enhanced Stormwater Ordinance for the Watershed Institute will present to the Township Committee on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Liz and Ed Hilzenrath will also be present.
- ⇒ Food Waste Recycling Pilot (PP) – Increased enrolled to 110. Gave new members an overview of program. 20,000 pounds of organic food waste collected to date.
- ⇒ Whittingham Triangle Pollinator Garden (EV/OD) – Signage delivered. A boy scout is working on his Eagle Scout project. Need warmer weather to proceed.
- ⇒ 11 Main Street Affordable Housing Development (JM, PP) – Nothing to report until court date of January 28.

### New Business Ideas to Consider –

Looking for suggestions to consider, some topics listed below, other ideas are welcome.

- a) Recycling/Waste Diversion

- b) Climate/Energy Aggregation (PP) – Update - Energy market pricing is not favorable at this time. Revisit late spring to early summer.
- c) Open Space
- d) Leaf Blower
- e) Suggestions

**Announcements/Events/Miscellaneous**

- ✓ ANJEC on-line meeting January 22, 4 PM. Keynote speaker Dan Van Abs, from Passaic River Coalition, Mark McDonough, President of NJ American Water and Senator Bob Smith.
  - ✓ New members are advised to contact ANJEC to receive their newsletter, review their YouTube videos and sign up for new member environmental training.
- Next MEC Meeting: Tuesday, February 8, 7:00 PM.

Jorge Mastropietro motion to adjourn, Odarka Stockert 2<sup>nd</sup> with all in favor.  
Adjourn 8:24

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary