

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

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) **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 January 11, 2023, minutes Laura Kosik motioned to accept the minutes and Mark Robison 2nd, others in attendance who are eligible to vote are in favor.
- d) Treasurer Report – (RT) – ANJEC membership dues of \$470 is due in February.

Communication/Updates

- a) Millburn Green Team (MR) – Currently no chair and no update. The Green Team works to attain the NJ Sustainable Jersey certification, due every 3 years.
- b) Shade Tree Advisory Board (EV) – the new Forrester is full-time. Date to be determined for 1st Shade Tree meeting. Will be working on the tree preservation ordinance. Members want to create a budget for trees, whereas the fines collected go into a general fund. Suggesting working on updating the tree preservation ordinance. 300 trees have been ordered for the tree giveaway. Liz will find out the type of trees ordered and if more trees can be ordered.
- c) Millburn High School E-Club (AP) – The cafeteria Java food waste program is set for May 1 – June 9th. Java will host training for student volunteers from the EC club and students 18-21 from the Life Skills class. Volunteers will assist in ensuring that the food waste goes into the correct disposal bins and educate the student body. The HS EC club is requesting a donation of \$1,175.00 for materials, supplies and hauling of the food waste by Java. The food waste collected is from lunch, not kitchen prep. The Principal and DWP supervisor did have concerns regarding vermin and odor but agreed to the trial project. Food waste will be picked up twice a week. This project also serves as an educational component for students to learn the importance of food composting. The goal is to replicate this program next year. Reviewed a proposed training, recycling, and budget plan. Priya motioned to fund the project expenditure of \$1,175 and Odarka 2nd with all others in favor.

Planning Board Report (DN) – MEC members reviewed and discussed a subdivision application for 285 Old Short Hills Rd. The intent is to tear down the existing house and subdivide the lot. Debra will bring the following concerns to the Planning Board and report back.

Concerns include:

1. Waivers of the Environmental Impact Statement and Stormwater runoff
2. The status on the spring on the property will not be disturbed.
3. Request that the Township Forrester inspect the trees on the property.
4. What is the property zoned for?
5. What are the intentions of this property?

Zoning Board Report (LK) – Update on applications.

15 Park Rd – Asking for a 1-year extension on a previously approved application – applicant needs to reapply.

156 Main St – Applicant is Trifecta Event Space – proposing renovation for an event space to include inside and outside, current plantings will be removed, and new plants are not required, backs up to river bank. The neighboring business will sell out some of his parking lot for their use at designated times. Application approved.

Old Business

- a) Native & Invasive Plants Resolution (OS) – no report
- b) Tree Ordinance (EV, MR) – no report
- c) Taylor Park River Walk cleanup/Earth Day/SH Garden Club connection. – no report
- d) Comprehensive Community Outreach (MR, OS, EV, KB, LK) – Group met on January 25, for a 1-hour meeting.
 1. Discussed creating a content calendar which will be distributed through Millburn social media channels. Content calendar to have a new post once a month – Asking each MEC members to contribute one month topic for calendar.
Topics examples: recycling, storm management, landscape for ecology & environment and energy conservation. Topics can branch off of these ideas.
 2. Update educational content on MEC website. Creating 3 documents, starting with shrubs, and continuing with perennials, and trees.

Working on populating the calendar and hoping to have a sample calendar for the March meeting.

New Business

- a) Environmental Resource Inventory – Roger will contact the original company regarding updating.
- b) Contact with surrounding towns (RT) - Roger has been contacting surrounding towns and gathering environmental ideas and information - (Summit, South Orange, Springfield and Livingston) Will email members a copy of Livingston's Bamboo ordinance and will also check with ANJEC on a bamboo ordinance.
- c) Tree giveaway (EV) – The Forrester ordered 300 trees (saplings) for the giveaway. The Township funds the trees. Liz will check to see if more trees can be purchased.

Announcements/Events –

South Mountain Conservancy – will attend the March 14 meeting. They are looking for volunteers for meadow restoration at Shady Nook Picnic area during May and June.

Tour of Millburn is looking for volunteers, contact the Recreation Department.

Founding Day event on April 22 needs volunteers. Odarka/Historical Society will have a birthday party for the Elm tree.

Mark Robison motioned to adjourn, Elizabeth Vollavanh 2nd with all in favor.

Adjourn 8:45

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary

Next MEC Meeting: *Tuesday, March 14, 2023*