

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 @ 7:30 pm

MINUTES

Members: Joseph Barbanel, Edward Hilzenrath, Jorge Mastropietro, Sean O'Brien, Priya Patel (chair), Lisa Chenofsky Singer, Odarka Stockert, Elizabeth Vollavanh, Jack Wenzel

Township Committee Liaison: Tara Prupis

Secretary: Somil Agarwal

Meeting started at 7:34pm

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 2020 minutes
 - a. Accepted
- d. Treasurer Report (LCS)
 - a. No treasurers report yet

Public Comment

Communication

a. Single Use Plastic Ordinance Subcommittee (EH, PP, LCS)

b. Millburn Green Team liaison (SO)

- Working on getting the word out about the ordinance
- Ideas
 - Distribute flyers
 - Door tags
 - Do not know who will make and distribute
 - Task needs to be delegated
 - Press
- Need list of companies and businesses for purpose of contacting them
- Bags with MEC logo
- Rene (Green Team) wants to focus on fair
- A lot of ideas organized but no assignments to pursue plans
- MEC passed resolution and their main job is done so now Green Teams needs to take lead
- Millburn has business list but cannot give
- Renee sends emails and has contact
- Up to MEC to distribute posters to businesses
- High school club can help to distribute posters
- Community members might not be able to answer questions by businesses about posters
- Many businesses (mainly township list) know about the ordinance and have been emailed numerous times about it
- We need to roll out from town to businesses through emails
-

c. Millburn High School liaison (JW)

- Raised \$200
- More supplies and be more prepared
- Ordered stickers and other supplies for AquaFest
- 2 new members
- Everything running smoothly
- MHS student, Aalok Bhatt, has conducted online survey about plastic materials
 - Most people do not want these plastics to be sold

- Next step is to go to Dr. Burton

d. Millburn Township Green Schools Team liaison (PP)

- Inspection of the schools by county. They said schools have met recycling requirements but they just checked if the bins were there, not the contamination levels of the bins
- Contract with Giordano has no incentive to reduce waste
- Hard to make small children to recycle properly
 - Maybe it could be included in science curriculum
 - Could sway Board of Education
- Glenwood is not doing it
 - Teaching kids how to recycle next Thursday
- Every rep from each school says recycling is not happening properly
- The recycling has no real value so Green Schools Team is arguing for composting
 - Trying to contract w pickup service
 - Custodian would have to do much of the work so similar issues as recycling
 - Training issues
- Administration of the schools need to deal with this issue
 - Schools need to be on board for training and monitoring
 - Need to get Burton on board
- Need to recycle aluminum
 - Not a lot of aluminum in the schools
- If schools are on board, Tara can help to get Alex on board
- MEC can drive for resolution and go through process, but not much township can do themselves

e. Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board (TP)

- PACs committee made recommendations at end of January
- New traffic engineer hired from Mazer Consulting
- Lot of input and he is making his own recommendations
- 5 old recommendations
 - 1. Put a dedicated right hand turn lane from Millburn Ave to Main street
 - 2. Take out flex parking
 - 3. Address walkway from Haagen Daz to Dunkin
 - 4. Address barrier to parking lot
 - 5. Take parking lot and grassy area to transform to 17 spots
- Request for proposal is due by end of March
- Vision Plan
 - Hiring planner to look out downtown as a whole to address all issues
 - In the plan, they will be engaging w stakeholders to see area of redevelopment
 - Look at all resurface parking lot
 - Address entire downtown and how we want it to look like in 10 years and how do we get there.
 - There might be affordable quick fixes that might make a difference
- Traffic engineer will work with the Vision planner
- Subcommittee made
- 2 weeks recommendation for who to be hired
- We should not move DPW
 - Contamination from parking lot across the street
 - Been going under attenuation and investigation for a long time
 - Redeveloping that will cause problems since we do not know what it is.
 - It will be addressed in Vision Plan
 - If It was private property, an attorney should be hired and they should hire environmental committee to test the land and make recommendations to the owner
 - Will be a much larger conversation later on
 - Follow-up item
 - Agenda for next week

Turtle Back Zoo

- Meetings tomorrow night. Tara and mayor will be requesting an environmental impact study

Training

- Creating sample water ordinance that we can take and tweak to present to township
- UCC is set in stone

- State is working to make UCC promote more energy efficient buildings
- We can ask for more but we can not mandate anything as of now
- Will get some model ordinances in following months

Environment Impact Statement

- One ordinance
- Times where waiver is very important
- Can add more detail, but no teeth right now
- Can make the companies think about environmental issues but cannot mandate
- Would be addition to 2010 ordinance
- No environmental requirements unless it comes from UCC
- UCC is looking at energy standards

Township Committee Report (TP)

Technical Review with Plans

- Something done in Maplewood
- Concept plan
- Check ordinance if we have a technical review committee that does it before
- It can be very complicated
- They do not ordinarily come before us for presentations
- They could put in concept reviews but they choose not to
- Strong neighborhood associations that demand things but they do not have to listen

Planning Board Report (JM)

- Change in zoning for Wells Fargo
- Before ground floor was just residential but now it could be both
- Jorge believes every downtown needs mixed buildings
- Not a plan but a reaction to other things
- Voted for an amendment in the masterplan
 - Now it will be an ordinance so new opportunity to add stuff in
- If TC approves it then it's done. If not, it goes back to the planning board
- Question whether setbacks should be there
- We need vision of town

- Survey about how we can spruce up Taylor park
 - Will be announced March 14th hopefully

MEC 2020 Framework for Action: Built & Natural Spaces; Impact & Resilience, Greener Govt

Discuss:

- ⇒ Sustainable Land Use Pledge
- ⇒ Green Building Policy/Resolution
- ⇒ Water Conservation Ordinance
- ⇒ Invasive Species Ordinance "Bamboo Ordinance"
 - Pushed to next meeting
 - Will be difficult to enforce
- ⇒ EV vehicle purchase, energy audit

<p>Next MEC meeting:</p> <p>Tuesday, April 14, 2020</p> <p>7:30pm</p> <p>Millburn Town Hall</p>

Announcements/Events/Miscellaneous:

Garden

- Community garden but no portion that's organic

- Begging for corner that is organic
- How do we provide to township personnel
- Hard to change culture of the place
- Formed before pre-organic ideals

Walkable City

- Self committee about walkable city
- Cones on walkway for children to walk to Glenwood
- Joe works near Glenwood and can help with that
- Organize something where one Sunday everyone bikes around town

- Public Info Sessions re: Plastics Ordinance, THU Mar 5, 11am-12pm, 7-8pm @Millburn Library
- ANJEC training, SAT Mar 7, 9am-1:30pm @TurtleBack Zoo

Meeting Adjourned 8:59