

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 @ 7:00 pm
(virtual meeting via Zoom)

MINUTES

Members: Joe Barbanel, Edward Hilzenrath, Mark Hubertus (MHS), Reade Kem, Wendy Minocha, Priya Patel (chair), Odarka Stockert, Elizabeth Vollavanh and Jorge Mastropietro
Also, present Sara Sherman, Millburn Resident

Township Committee Liaison: Tara Prupis - present

Secretary: Carolyn Scannelli

Call to Order: 7:07 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 February 10, 2021 minutes Joe Barbanel motioned to accept, Reade Kem 2nd, Jorge Mastropietro abstain; all others are in favor.
- d. Financial Report – \$1530.00 remaining balance.

Public Comment

Resident Sara Sherman spoke regarding an odor that she recently noticed starting February 25, during the evening in her neighborhood. The odor smell is unknown or maybe a musty smell. When first noticed, she placed a call to the fire department who were helpful, but unable to locate where or what the odor is. This was also addressed at the recent Township Committee meeting.

Communication

- a. Millburn Green Team liaison (position open) – No report.
- b. Millburn High School E-Club (MH) –
Had a virtual meeting with Rahway River Watershed Association –
Spoke about and received a manual to construct a rain garden.
15 students attended virtual meeting.
Need to rebuild the greenhouse, if not this year then next year.
April/May one (1) tree will be planted, tentative location is at the tennis courts.
AquaFest will be virtual (like last year), will have on-line activities, also considering doing a play.
- c. Millburn Township Green Schools Team (JM) – No recent meeting. No report.
- d. Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board (TP) – Last meeting was in January, next meeting April 28th.
- e. Bike Walk Millburn (JM) – April 17-24 <https://twp.millburn.nj.us/Bike-Week>
Many events planned everyday throughout the week.
- f. Downtown Area Vision Plan (PP) – 2nd meeting was held on March 2. Over 130 participants.

Reviewed proposals and received positive reception. Consultants from Perkins Eastman will present their plan to the Township Committee on March 23.

Township Committee Report (TP) – The Township Attorney will prepare an ordinance prohibiting recreational marijuana, 1st reading set for April 6 meeting.
April 1st, parking permits on sale for \$60 (yearly fee) for municipal lots and street parking, instead of paying at pay station.
A subcommittee was formed to review the commercial sign ordinance, working to streamline and condense the ordinance.

Planning Board report (JM) – (1) A recent application was approved for a subdivision, lots were conforming.
(2) Chatham Road/Woodland Road – The planning board does not require LEED certification requirements for this project. MEC discussed expressing their opinion regarding the environmental impact this project will have and agreed that a memo should be drafted and presented to the Planning Board. Odarka will draft a letter (Liz and Jorge to review) to be presented to the Planning Board stating stormwater management and LEED certification is critical to a development of this size.

Old Business

- ⇒ Stormwater Management/Green Infrastructure Ordinance (EV/JM/EH)
Presented for discussion, a lengthy Watershed Institute Enhanced Model Stormwater Ordinance. Discussed that the township needs to take a more rigorous measure. An amendment should be added to the existing ordinance which would include reduced land size, major vs. minor development, residential development, and other development issues. Consider hiring an expert on stormwater management to address the township committee. Liz/Ed will contact Michael Pisauro, Policy Director at the Watershed Institute to speak to the Township Committee.

Due to the meeting time, the following agenda items will be tabled to the April meeting.
Odarka Stockert motioned to table the three items below and Ed Hilzenrath 2nd, with all in favor.

- ⇒ Green Building Ordinance (EV/JM/EH)
- ⇒ Open Space Trust Fund (RK/OS)
- ⇒ Gas Powered Leaf Blowers Ordinance (JB)

New Business

- ⇒ Community Choice Energy Aggregation (PP)
- ⇒ Food Waste Recycling Pilot – 2,200 pounds of food waste has been generated so far. As Liz is participating, she stated that it is going well and the drop off is easy.
- ⇒ ANJEC Grant - \$1,500 grant, due 4/19, needs to be related to open space, trails, gardens etc.
- ⇒ Butterfly Pollinator Garden – Liz and Odarka will work on creating a few pollinator gardens consisting of native species plants.

Announcements/Events/Miscellaneous

- Next MEC Meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 7:00 PM.

Odarka Stockert motion to adjourn, Ed Hilzenrath 2nd with all in favor.
Adjourn 8:34

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary