

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, April 12, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

MINUTES

Members: Reade Kem (Chair), Laura Kosik, Debra Nevas, Mark Robison, Roger Timpson, Elizabeth Vollavanh
Absent: Priya Patel, Odarka Stockert, Noah Packman

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 March 8, 2022, minutes – Roger Timpson motioned to accept the minutes Mark Robison 2nd, others in attendance who are eligible to vote are in favor.
- d) Welcome New Member Debra Nevas. Debra took the Oath of Office. Debra is the Liaison to the Planning Board/Planning Board member. Debra is a 20-year resident of Short Hills. Her two children went through the Millburn School District. Debra's interest in the township grew when the Woodland Road Silverman Development project started. She also has an interest in the Townships green space and environmental matters.
- e) Treasurer Report – (RT) Roger provided two lists, 1. budget use and funds 2. a report received by the Township CFO of expenditures for the last 6 years. Roger stated that there has been a residual at the end of each year. Liz commented that as she was Chair for four years and Priya was Chair for the last 2 years, and she recalls that the budget has been spent for all those years. Roger will confirm with the CFO and report the findings. Reade suggested for members to bring ideas to the group in which the budget can assist with.

Public Comment - N/A

Communication

- a. Millburn Green Team (MR) – No new updates. The Green Team is consumed with the Greenhouse Gas Emission and Native Plant Appreciation Month is in full swing.
- b. Millburn High School E-Club (NP) – N/A
- c. Shade Tree Advisory Board (EV) – Working on a proposed list of native street trees to submit to the Township Forester. Sapling pick up is April 22, DPW.

Township Committee Report (MM) – At the April 5 Township Committee meeting, a Proclamation was presented for Native Plant Appreciation Month. Awaiting the Stormwater report which is in the process of being reviewed by the Township Engineer, once complete she will advise of her findings. As Liz worked on the Stormwater Management Ordinance, Liz spoke regarding engineering approval for stormwater redevelopment and the Stormwater Management report that was presented to the Township Committee. The same is being reviewed by the Township Engineer. Liz also stated that she has a list of what other towns are undertaking and suggested that this valuable information can help the Flood Mitigation Group and Township Committee make a thorough decision. Liz will email the list and the storm water presentation to the Flood Mitigation Committee. Mayor Miggins stated that the Township Committee makes the final decision.

Zoning Board Report (LK) – Laura attended via zoom the April 4 meeting. New applications included: 20 Great Hills Terr. – modification to a previous approval to the prior owner (2017) which was never completed – Prior owner took down trees which were 20' high, agreed to replacement of Evergreen trees of the same height. As this is not practical, the applicant is asking for 5 - 12' trees on top of retaining wall and 4 -14' trees on the ground. The Township Forester agreed with this plan. Application Approved. 37 Kean Road – Built without a permit is a nonconforming large shed with electric. This application was for a landscape plan, that was never discussed. Discussed were discrepancies by neighbors with concerns for their property and landscape. Application denied due to violations as shed was built without a permit. Laura signed off at 9:17 and was not able to listen to last application.

Planning Board Report (DN) – March 16 meeting (not present but watched afterwards)

1) Application for additional variances for the Beehive Property (old Wells Fargo). Memorialize on April 6. Change loading zone to Spring Avenue

Extend store front on Millburn Ave.

Add balconies to some interior units

Removed entrance on Millburn Ave, only one entrance/exit on Essex Street.

2) Two ordinances recommended as not consistent with the Master Plan relating to regulations of affordable house regarding settlement of the lawsuit. Not consistent with the Master Plan and referred back to the Township Committee.

Old Business

- a) Native & Invasive Plants Resolution (OS) – N/A

Reade questioned – How can we bring this resolution forward? Reade also asked Mayor Miggins should EC address bamboo. Mayor stated to create a list of plants to present to Township Committee.

Mark presented a PowerPoint study on street trees/design standards, a study of tree ordinances and urban tree canopy. This was a component of his recent Landscape Architect Master Degree study at Rutgers University. The presentation consisted of slides and charts of neighboring towns ordinances, species, violations, and tree replacement.

Jersey City and Montclair have a well-developed residential and township tree program. Next steps would be to look into design standards related to native and invasive species, an ordinance tree list, municipal and residential tree information, deleterious bugs and flies and improve the Township website regarding all of this information. Mark will share the presentation with who ever is interested.

- b) Stormwater Management/Green Infrastructure Ordinance (EV) – Discussed under Township Committee report.
- c) Whittingham Triangle Pollinator Garden (EV/OS/MR) – 4/29 Ribbon cutting, boy scouts installed new signs. A unique branch fence was installed to delineate the path.
- d) Recycling/Waste Diversion (RK/PP) – Reade is waiting on return calls for glass recycling. As per Township CFO the cost of waste collection is up, not just for Millburn but for the entire region

(due to labor, gas, trucking availability). But the Township is also generating some positive income from its recycled materials as those prices are also up..

New Business

- a) Open Space – moved to next meeting.

Announcements/Events/Updates

ANJEC sponsored a presentation on leaf blowers; Maplewood has passed an Ordinance on 1st reading to prohibit gas powered leaf blowers.

Roger volunteered to gather information on prohibiting gas-powered leaf blowers. Mayor Miggins said she didn't think there is any appetite for it at the Township Committee.

Spotted Lantern Fly

Debra asked if the town could provide information about this infestation, which will return with warmer weather. Reade proposed adding an announcement on the Township webpage and will look into it. An example would be the State's warning: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/>

- Next MEC Meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 PM.

Mark Robison motion to adjourn, Roger Timpson 2nd with all in favor.
Adjourn 8:28

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary