

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

MINUTES

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

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 May 10, 2022, minutes Maggee Miggins motioned to accept the minutes and Mark Robison 2nd, others in attendance who are eligible to vote are in favor.
- d) Treasurer Report – (RT) No report.

Public Comment – N/A

Communication/Updates

- a) Millburn High School E-Club (NP) – Waiting to hear of new E-Club representative
- b) Millburn Green Team (MR) – No updates. Weeding and pruning of the pollinator garden. Flowers should be blooming soon.
- c) Shade Tree Advisory Board (EV) – No report

Township Committee Report (MM) – Focusing on 9 Main Street. Introduced a new ordinance for township wide security improvements due to car theft. Hoping to discuss the bamboo, native and invasive plant resolution in July.

Debra questioned if the EC would need to commit on the DEP reports for the 9 Main Street project. Mayor Miggins stated that 11 soil samples were taken, 1 showed historic fill and 1 showed mercury. More sampling will be done. It appears the site is not toxic. The township parking garage was built on historic fill. After further discussion, it was thought that the DEP would assume responsibility for the decision and confirmation if the lot is buildable. As per proposals, the building will be LEED Certified. Possibly the EC would comment on native species plantings, EV parking, and other environmental concerns.

Also discussed were solar panels at Canoe Brook Water property (NJAWC), Mayor Miggins stated that she has toured the property. They currently have solar panels that are placed in the reservoir to host the photovoltaic system and could be expanding to another reservoir. It is unknown if the water company needs to get a variance. Mayor Miggins will inquire.

Planning Board Report (DN) – New application 348 Millburn Ave – expanding space by enclosing an outdoor staircase to add to existing office space, no additional impervious surface. No solar panels, no charging station. Next meeting 6/15/22 which will include Fairshare Housing discussion.

Zoning Board Report (LK) – New Applications – (1) The owner of the restaurant La Pergola Restaurant (150 Essex) applied for a use variance to use the adjacent garden/patio area (120 Essex) for their restaurant, which their employees have been maintaining. The building owner purchased this adjoining garden space property many years ago although, it was not part of the restaurant's lease. This space was open public space but once purchased by the current owner, it was converted to private space. The building owner will include this property in the restaurants lease. After public comments, review and questioning, the Zoning Board approved the application.

(2) 95 Falmouth Street - 2 variances for a proposed addition. R-4 zone with two front and two side yards which was approved. Water management will be addressed.

Old Business

- a) Tree Ordinance / Native & Invasive Plants Resolution (EV, MR, OS) – Odarka spoke with the South Mountain Conservancy regarding regeneration and invasive species concerns for Millburn. She is hoping to receive a letter from them with that information.
Odarka questioned why Redbud trees have been removed from areas in town and replaced with Japanese Lilac trees. Mark explained that these trees do not grow tall (20') therefore, they do not interfere with overhead wires in the right of way. It is unknown why the trees were replaced. Mark is waiting to hear back from Liz regarding volunteering with Shade Tree to discuss appropriate species and best practices for the township.
Also, discussed possibly forming a subcommittee within the EC to review, discuss and organize steps of a best tree practice on public and private property, which can be forward to Shade Tree and/or the Township Committee.
- b) Stormwater Management/Green Infrastructure Ordinance (EV) – Mark mentioned as an FYI that NJDEP is to implement emergency rules for construction in certain flood prone areas. The rules will use current and future rainfall rates instead of figures that are two decades old. The rules could face push back from developers. Raising flood elevations by 2' due to climate change. An email link to this article will be sent out.
- c) Recycling/waste diversion (RK) – Priya received a quote for a separate glass drop-off recycling program, perhaps use DPW as the drop-off location. The service quote is for hauling away at \$100/month. There is more of a demand for glass that is not commingled with other recycling, as it is used for roadway paving.
Reade contacted 2 companies for glass recycling. One is located in NJ, who referred him to a PA company. He is reaching out to them.

New Business – N/A

Announcements/Events

Madison's Environmental Commission is sponsoring an online presentation on residential solar power installation Tuesday, June 21, 7:30-8:30pm; registration: <https://NJSMAsolar.eventbrite.com>

Next MEC Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 7:00 PM.

Maggee Miggins motion to adjourn, Mark Robison 2nd with all in favor.
Adjourn 8:07

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary