

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 @ 7:30 pm

(virtual meeting via Zoom)

MINUTES

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

Township Committee Liaison: Tara Prupis – absent

Secretary: Carolyn Scannelli

Call to Order: 7:35 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 July 14, 2020 minutes Jorge Mastropietro motion to accept, Lisa Chenofsky 2nd, Odarka Stockert abstain, all others in favor.
- d. Treasurer Report (LCS) Review report – \$1751.34. Anjec membership dues paid for year. Additional reimbursements made.

Public Comment – No one present.

Communication

- a. Single Use Plastic Ordinance Subcommittee (PP)

There is a concern regarding the plastic bags ShopRite and possibly other businesses are using. Suggesting of adding an amendment to ordinance regarding use and definition of stitched handle bags. Ed, Lisa and (Renee - Green Team) – subcommittee appointed to draft an amendment. Joe motioned to have subcommittee prepare amendment, Odarka 2nd, with all in favor.
- b. Millburn Green Team liaison (SO)

Sean discussed plastic bag use at Walgreens, whereas they are not adhering to the plastic bag ordinance. This was discussed with the manager and it seems more of a corporate issue, as store management does not have authority to change bags. PP suggested to contact Millburn Code Enforcement Officer regarding a violation of the ordinance. Sean will follow up with C.E.O. Recommendation made to increase ordinance bag fee (that a store can charge), as an increase would be a deterrent to store and customers and hopefully to use their own bags.
- c. Millburn High School (MH)

Post Covid club activities - Principal Dr. Miron, stated there are funding issues for clubs – therefore, funds would be split between marking periods. Hiatus plan for the HS EC would consist of goggle meetings, hosting activities (that do not need funds) such as, teach people how to live responsibly, pick up trash, planting ideas, critical thinking skills. Additionally, attention is needed to the HS rain garden, which has fallen into disrepair. Mark Hubertus will check into.
- d. Millburn Township Green Schools Team (PP) N/A
- e. Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board (TP) N/A

Township Committee Report (TP) - N/A

Planning Board Report (JM)

Jorge spoke with regards to new applications and concerns with lack of LEED certification, lot coverage, impervious coverage, and the use of grandfathered status. More environmental awareness and protection should be addressed. Most recent application is for Chatham Rd, meeting Sept 16. Liz and Jorge will address and submit concerns for the upcoming meeting.

Discussion

- ⇒ Environmental Justice Bill – Waiting on Governor approval.
- ⇒ Bike Millburn – (JM) – Sunday, September 13. “Tour de Millburn” due to a big sign up, registration and waiting list has been closed.
- ⇒ Leaf blower Ordinance – Did not receive TC support. Joe B. stating there is no quiet alternative, no electric that is viable, no substitute.
There is still interest in this type of ordinance, not as aggressive but with concerns for noise, pollution, fuel, health issues. Joe, Jorge, Odarka will discuss further and report back to committee.

New Business

Priya was asked by Green Team member Rene Papanian if the EC could contribute to achieving Sustainable Jersey points towards NJ Certification. Liz and Jorge will update her on actions that can be considered for points.

Odarka spoke about new construction and the threat to bats, such as land clearance and habitat loss. A decline in bats would have an environmental impact. Possibly a habitat ordinance should be looked into.

Announcements/Events/Miscellaneous

- Next MEC Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 7:30 PM

Adjourn 8:56

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary