

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, October 11, 202 @ 7:00 pm

(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

MINUTES

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

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 September 13, 2022, minutes Roger Timpson motioned to accept the minutes and Debra Nevas 2nd, others in attendance who are eligible to vote are in favor.
- d) Treasurer Report – (RT) – ANJEC dues were paid on 2/2/22 (\$375). Available balance is \$1675. Other expenditures in the total year to date (\$825) include the following:
Friends of Hopewell
Invasive Species presentation at the Oct. 18th TC meeting (\$250 donation)
Donations in honor of Maureen Ogden (\$200)

New MEC member Millburn High School E-Club President Abby Packman was sworn in has an Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/22.

Public Comment – Resident Tammy Huang stated that she attended an MEC meeting in May regarding her concern of gas leaf blowers. Since then, a group of residents have formed on-line website called millblownaway.org. Anyone can join the on-line website. On that site are scientific references and information regarding gas leaf blowers and an interview with Paul J. Muñoz, a landscaper and a member of East Hampton, NY Environmental Commission. Additionally, there are two bills up for a hearing on November 3, 2022, Senate bill S427 – prohibiting gas powered leaf blowers and Assembly bill A1939 – rebate for electric batteries. Tammy asked if MEC members could testify, call, or email Senator Cody, Assemblywoman Jasey, or Assemblyman McKeon in support of these bills. Roger will email Tammy a copy of his informational writeup that he presented to MEC members on gas powered leaf blowers.

Communication/Updates

- a) Millburn Green Team (MR) – No update. Mark unable to attend tonight's meeting.
- b) Shade Tree Advisory Board (EV) – Next meeting 11/12.
Regarding Spotted Lantern Flies, traps have been placed on many fruit trees within the township.

Spoke with Twp Administrator regarding Shade Tree as an Advisory Board as opposed to a commission. He did not think there is much difference. He will coordinate with Jeff (Twp Forrester) on scheduling more Shade Tree meetings than the four meetings a year, so more can be accomplished.

Not planting trees this fall because of the drought. Unable to find survey of street trees that was completed 15 years ago, and lost track of what was planted where and will clarify with Jeff as to what type and size can be planted.

- c) Millburn High School E-Club (AP) – New HS E Club President Abby Packman – Update from recent meeting:

Principal approved Java composting for the school. A special ed teacher would like to include her students with the composting project.

South Mountain Conservancy contacted the E-club with volunteer work opportunities to remove invasive species from the reservation. The club voted and approved this opportunity.

Township Committee Report (MM) – Township Committee is looking forward to EC's Invasive Species presentation on October 18. The Township Clerk passed around the slide presentation, to familiarize the members before the meeting.

Planning Board Report (DN) – No new update. No meeting since July.

Zoning Board Report (LK) – September 19th meeting update - 2 applications:

19 Rahway Rd – Approved 2nd Fl master suite addition. – Narrow lot, 2nd floor addition as to not encroach on property.

437 & 439 Millburn Ave & 7 Bodwell Terr. – Demolition of two homes to construction of a house of worship. This is an ongoing application. Area residents are concerned with parking, safety, traffic, parking, and the impact on Bodwell Terr. At this time there is no discussion of environmental issues. Did discuss landscaping, privacy of landscape, plantings. This is a 3-acre lot with 23% building coverage. Liz stated with that size lot, they would have to follow the new stormwater ordinance.

Old Business

- a) Native & Invasive Plants Resolution (OS, RK) – Presentation Oct 18.
- b) Tree Ordinance (EV, MR) – Next meeting 10/12/22.
- c) 132 Millburn Ave / former Exxon Station (PP) – The 3 underground storage tanks have been removed. Soil and water are being sampled, results in 2/3 weeks.
- d) Stormwater Management/Green Infrastructure Ordinance (EV) – Liz will follow up with Diane on the status of the Watershed's enhanced version of the stormwater ordinance.
- e) Open Space (PP) – Mayor Miggins stated it was a wonderful presentation by Priya. It could have a possibility of gaining traction. It was received with a positive thought process. Next step is for Priya to meeting with the Township Administrator.
- f) Recycling (RK) – Reade and Priya visited Waste Management recycling plant in Newark. The township only has this place to use for its single stream recycling. (As Atlantic Fiber is being rebuilt due to a fire). More public education is needed to improve recycling. There are contamination problems with recycling, with items being included with recycling that should not be (e.g. garden hoses). Millburn does relatively well in sorting its recycling, but improvements are still possible. Some township schools are not recycling.
On Saturday, October 15 there is an electronics recycling event sponsored by Essex County.

New Business –

- a) Town Hall refurbishment (EV) – Discussion at a recent Township meeting was renovations of townhall. Liz stated there is an ordinance if the Township building is rebuilt it would have to be LEED certificated silver. Mayor Miggins stated that this was the first discussion and much more needs to follow. Although, all ordinances will be followed.

Additional Public Comment:

Resident Christine Best 15 Circle Terr. Short Hills. Spoke about 5G technology. She feels it is a massive health threat. She has concerns that the township does not have short- and long-term public safety in place. She shared a statement regarding cell towers within the township which safety notices were not issued. Referencing towers on Bleeker St (prior 4G now 5G gives off 17 on an EMS reader) and Millburn Ave and Main Street. Wondering if new towers will be installed without resident notice and if studies were done to see if it is necessary. She has concerns for small cells installed in residential areas. She shared health issues related to radiation exposure. She would like to work with MEC on these issues. She has links and references she can share with MEC.

Liz asked what board this would come to; Mayor Miggins stated the Zoning Board. Additionally, the Business Administrator is having discussions about this.

Roger Timpson motion to adjourn, Reade Kem 2nd with all in favor.
Adjourn 7:57

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary

Next MEC Meeting: *Wednesday, November 9th.*