

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, October 13, 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, Odarka Stockert.
Also, Roberto Prieto, Twp Resident. Absent: Lisa Chenofsky Singer

Township Committee Liaison: Tara Prupis

Secretary: Carolyn Scannelli

Call to Order: 7:31 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 8, 2020 minutes Jorge Mastropietro motion to accept, Edward Hilzenrath 2nd, Odarka Stockert abstain, all others in favor.
- d. Treasurer Report (LCS) Review report – \$1751.34. Not reviewed

Public Comment – No one present.

Communication

- a. Single Use Plastic Ordinance Subcommittee (PP)
Amend current ordinance: update definition for stricter bag compliance: use of stitched handle bags also, increase bag (paper & reusable) purchase fee. TC in agreement.
Sean will communicate with Short Hills Mall management on plastic bag ban. Jorge will make small flyers for stores. Most stores at the mall are complying.
Reviewed a chart which compared the townships bigger corporate retailers' compliance with the plastic bag ban ordinance, some do not. (ShopRite, CVS, Walgreens, Kings, Trader Joes, Pet Smart)
Ex: types of plastic bags used or offered
Use of papers bags.
Fee for bags – plastic and paper.
Ed will draft amended ordinance for October 20th, TC agenda.
- b. Millburn Green Team liaison (SO) Liz will be speaking with GT to discuss Sustainable Jersey actions.
- c. Millburn High School (MH)
HS Environmental Club was approved by the Principal to have meetings, 1st meeting was in September.
Completed a small cleanup at Taylor Park.
Will help with Rahway River cleanup Sunday, October 18th.
Many new members this year.
Will address HS rain garden at next meeting.
Letter writing campaign to County Commissioners regarding shutting down incinerator in Newark.

Commission also discussed the movie "The Sacrifice Zone" – a documentary featuring environmental injustice in the Ironbound section of Newark. Priya can get license to screen this 30-minute movie, cost

\$150.00 and would be open to township residents. A motion was made by Odarka to confirm cost and availability of the Sacrifice Zone documentary film and Ed 2nd, with all in favor.

d. Millburn Township Green Schools Team (PP) N/A

e. Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board (TP)

Tara thanks the EC for their work on "Tour of Millburn". All agreed the event was successful.

Advisory Board looking into bike lanes. Next meeting January 2021.

Township Committee Report (TP) –

Hiring a planning firm to design Township Vision Plan

Planning Board Report (JM)

With regards to the Chatham/Woodland Road development application, Jorge stated that there is no township ordinance that would be compatible with this property redevelopment issues, impervious coverage, max lot coverage, runoff. Flooding is a crisis in Millburn. Going forward, an ordinance needs to be adopted to ensure this type of construction does not happen without the correct ordinance in place. This development is adhering to state law due to builder's remedy lawsuit. Joe Barbanel mentioned installing an oil/water contamination separator for parking lot runoff pollution. EC members should make public comments at the next Township Committee meeting. Continue discussing necessary requirements for new commercial construction.

Discussion

- ⇒ Leaf blower Ordinance – Revisit after the November election/early 2021.
- ⇒ Millburn Composting Pilot Project – Food Scrap Drop Off. Up to 55 households can participate. There are startup costs, includes pails, bags, totes, weekly hauling fee. Discussed drop off location, cost. Uncertain if EC wants to commit. Jersey City and Hoboken offer this.
- ⇒ Plastic Bag collection towards Trex park bench – Jorge will check into.
- ⇒ Walk to Glenwood School / All Millburn schools – Jorge suggested promoting "walk to school for one week" using safety measures, of cones and a painted walking lane by curb. Possibly in Spring 2021.

Announcements/Events/Updates

- ⇒ Millburn River Walk, Sunday, October 18th.
- ⇒ Next MEC Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2020, 7:30 PM

Adjourn 9:00

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary