

## Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, November 12, 2020 @ 7:30 pm

(virtual meeting via Zoom)

### MINUTES

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**Members:** Joseph Barbanel, Edward Hilzenrath, Mark Hubertus (MHS), Jorge Mastropietro, Sean O'Brien, Priya Patel (chair), Elizabeth Vollavanh, Odarka Stockert  
**Also:** Jen Duckworth and Reade Kem, township residents. Absent Lisa Chenofsky Singer

**Township Committee Liaison:** Tara Prupis – absent

**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 October 13, 2020 minutes Joe Barbanel motion to accept, Elizabeth Vollavanh 2<sup>nd</sup>, all others in favor.
- d. Treasurer Report (LCS) Report not reviewed – \$701.34 remaining balance

**Public Comment** – Jen Duckworth stated she will be speaking at the Land Conservancy's next meeting and will discuss open space taxes.

#### Communication

- a. Millburn Green Team liaison (SO)  
Sean spoke with Jamie Fox of Short Hills Mall management regarding businesses complying with the plastic bag ban. Mr. Fox will meet with tenants again and advise them to view the ordinance on the township web page. Jorge will also discuss ban with other retailers.
- b. Millburn High School (MH)  
Viewed "The Sacrifice Zone" with 22 Essex County Environmental Club students. Discussion followed and all are in support.  
Creating a fundraiserr to replace tree(s) that were cut down over the summer. Odarka will contact township forester for assistance. Funds raise will not go to purchase of tree, but rather some type of fund for environmental purposes.  
Rain garden updated – spring project, will take apart and rebuild green house. Will team up with Green House Club and Key Club. Add new plantings of milkweed, butterfly weed, and additional pollinating plants. Odarka and Liz will assist.
- c. Millburn Township Green Schools Team (PP) No update.
- d. Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board (TP) Jen –  
Visioning plan: Meets quarterly  
Consists of downtown squared out area from Paper Mill Playhouse - HS - Taylor Park - Wyoming Ave.

**Township Committee Report (TP)** – (Jen) Township Committee's other visioning plan consists of pedestrian safety and environmentally friendly walkways and cross walks in the areas of Short Hills train station and Deerfield School.

**Planning Board Report (JM)** –

Applications under review –

Chatham and Woodland and Former Wells Fargo Building – same engineer for both projects.

Former Wells Fargo bldg. area seems environmental items are missing. Ex; proposed drainage

Impervious coverage is at 89%, previously on property smaller building, larger parking lot.

**Discussion**

⇒ Plastics ordinance amendment (PP, EH)

Discussed recently approved NJ Plastic bags, straws and polystyrene ban. Bill# A1978/S864.

Commences May 2022.

Priya attended TC meeting to present revisions to plastic bag-polystyrene township ordinance; stricter bag compliance (TC agreed), increase in compliant bag purchase fee to \$.25 (TC declined); 30 day will be changed to 60 day effective date.

⇒ Millburn Food Waste Recycling Pilot Project (PP)

TC In support. With that said, EC reviewed proposed pilot budget.

Jorge Mastropietro motioned to commit remaining EC 2020 budget funds of \$701.34 to help with pilot program; Sean O'Brien 2<sup>nd</sup> will all in favor. Additional comments: 55 households, 6-month trial program, \$50 registration; town yard is drop off location; keeps with environmental goals. Meat and dairy can be added.

Backyard composting can be a challenge for some, and curbside pickup can be cost-prohibitive, thus the need for this service.

⇒ NJ Energy Corp/132 Millburn Ave development (PP) – Zoning Board application. Flood zone.

Reviewed draft memo to Zoning Bd from EC.

Joe Barbanel motion to accept and submit memo to Zoning board and Ed Hilzenrath 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

Additional comments: EIS necessary, what is the state of the underground storage tanks, gas stations do not belong by rivers. Zoom Zoning Board meeting November 16, suggested members should zoom in and make a statement to them.

⇒ Tree Preservation ordinance (EV) – Possible revisions to ordinance: update fees, tree removal with a replacement at a different sight location. Tree removed - lot coverage/ tree replacement planting ratio, tree planting list.

Tree planting on County roads is overseen by the County.

Historic township tree list to be updated. Nominate township trees to be added to historic list.

⇒ Bike and Walk Millburn (JM)

Objective is to make town bikeable. One proposed action is to remove bikes from public works scrap and donate to organizations.

1<sup>st</sup> meeting 2 weeks ago, good meeting; good ideas. Next meeting 12/3/20.

Topics of interest: More bike racks within township.

Connect town with bike lanes.

Find ways to help more kids ride their bikes to school.

**Additional Discussion**

⇒ Joe B. – Leaf blowing – Montclair has a nonbinding trial period on gas blowers.

⇒ Whittingham Terr./Taylor Park triangle plantings

Liz spoke regarding creating a no-mow zone in the existing triangle area by Taylor Park, by adding low growing pollinating native plants. Soil needs to be replaced.

Odarka Stockert motioned to endorse this action and Joe Barbanel 2<sup>nd</sup> with all in favor.

**Announcements/Events/Miscellaneous**

- Next MEC Meeting: Thursday, December 10, 2020, 7:30 PM

Adjourn 9:01

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary