

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 @ 7:00 pm
(virtual meeting via Zoom)

MINUTES

Members: Edward Hilzenrath, Mark Hubertus (MHS), Reade Kem, Jorge Mastropietro, Priya Patel (chair), Elizabeth Vollavanh
Absent Joseph Barbanel and Odarka Stockert

Township Committee Liaison: Tara Prupis

Secretary: Carolyn Scannelli

Call to Order: 7:04 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 December 10, 2020 minutes Tara Prupis motion to accept, Jorge Mastropietro 2nd, all others are in favor.
- d. Treasurer Report – Balance unknown at this time. Treasurer position open, interested committee member contact Chair Patel.
- e. Welcome new member Reade Kem. Term expires December 2023.

Communication

- a. Millburn Green Team liaison (position open) – Requires attending and Co-chairing Green Team meeting and reporting back to MEC.
- b. Millburn High School E-Club (MH)
High School tree planting: The Township Forester will assist with planting and location. Tennis court location not suitable.
The High School will have a guest speaker talk on the topic of Environmental Policy and Legislation.
Mark will promote to high school students, ANJEC's screening of The Sacrifice Zone, on Thursday, January 21.
- c. Millburn Township Green Schools Team (JM) - Nothing to report
- d. Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board (TP) –
The west side of Short Hills Train station to have walkway and drop off/waiting area constructed.
Middle School (Whitney and Haddonfield Roads) to have sidewalk and drop off/waiting area constructed, leading up to entrance way. Bids will be going out for both jobs.
- e. Bike Walk Millburn (JM)
Recent meeting update: Established an agenda for Bike Week – April 17 to 24, 2021.

Bike week includes a bike swap, painting of bike lanes, bike and walk to school, bike safety education, a police forum, bike repair education, helmet education, and residents shared ride elsewhere.

Volunteers are needed. MEC will help with volunteering and other resources.

f. Downtown Area Vision Plan (PP)

Subcommittee meeting – discussed creating an FAQ.

Essex County Engineer granted approval for Township Engineer to plan for 2-way traffic on Essex Street and Lackawanna Place. This will include new landscaping and streetscaping to enhance walking, biking and visiting the downtown area.

Township Committee Report (TP) - Reorganization Meeting was held on January 5.

Planning Board report (JM) –

Current applications:

Woodland and Chatham project

Wells Fargo (old site)

45 Willow Street

There is interest in creating a LEED ordinance. Subcommittee of (JM, EV, EH) will research, examine similar ordinances, and select what is feasible for the Township and make recommendations for developing an ordinance and further discuss with the EC.

Discussion

⇒ Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance

Reviewed amended draft ordinance for defined description of a “Reusable Bag”. All agreed with description. Ordinance will be sent to Township Committee for review and adoption.

⇒ Millburn Food Waste Recycling Pilot Project (PP)

Starts February 1, six 6 months, includes 55 households.

Participants watched a zoom video and a question/answer session.

Picking up of supplies has begun.

⇒ Environmental Justice/“The Sacrifice Zone” screening (MH/PP)

ANJEC is offering a free screening on Thursday, January 21. With a discussion to follow.

Registration is required, with a question and answer to follow.

⇒ 2021 Priorities: MEC Vision 2021 Discussed the following ideas -

Energy - Carbon Free, Electric Vehicle charging stations, reduce carbon footprint.

Natural Resources – discussed researching into an Open Space Trust Fund tax for Millburn Township to allocate for vacate land purchases to protect open space. Land can be left undeveloped or create parks to prevent overdevelopment within the Township. This can be accomplished by a ballot measure.

Renewable Government Energy Aggregation, an ordinance exists, although the cost savings were not there in 2018 w/the other towns that are PSEG customers. We can however enter into a different aggregation w/towns that are JCPL customers like Millburn and achieve cost neutrality and increased renewables.

Announcements/Events/Miscellaneous

- Next MEC Meeting: Wednesday February 10, 7:00 PM.

Adjourn 8:23

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary