

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 @ 7:00 pm
(virtual meeting via Zoom)

MINUTES

Members: Joe Barbanel, Edward Hilzenrath, Mark Hubertus (MHS), Reade Kem, Wendy Minocha, Priya Patel (chair), Odarka Stockert, Elizabeth Vollavanh. Absent: Jorge Mastropietro
Also, present Michael Gersho, Millburn Resident

Township Committee Liaison: Tara Prupis - absent

Secretary: Carolyn Scannelli

Call to Order: 7:03 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 January 13, 2021 minutes Joe Barbanel motion to accept, Edward Hilzenrath 2nd, Odarka Stockert and Wendy Minocha abstain; all others are in favor.
- d. Treasurer Report – Annual budget \$2,500. \$375 to be paid to ANJEC for annual membership. Dues includes webinars, training, workshops, resources. All new EC members are encouraged to attend training and learn about the position and responsibility.
- e. Welcome new member Wendy Minocha, Alternate #1 member. Term expires December 2021.

Public Comment

Michael Gersho, Township Resident inquired about energy aggregation with Essex County Aggregation. Chair Patel stated, in 2018 a Township ordinance was passed to join the Essex County Energy Aggregation, but at that time the pricing was not beneficial. EC plans to revisit again in 2021.

Communication

- a. Millburn Green Team liaison (position open) – No report.
- b. Millburn High School E-Club (MH) –
Upcoming meeting regarding environment policies.
AquaFest participation to be discussed at next meeting.
Reaching out to Rahway River Coalition and Rutgers Cooperate Extension for insight on developing and constructing a rain garden.
- c. Millburn Township Green Schools Team (JM) - No report.
- d. Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board (TP) – Mayor Prupis encourages EC members to reach out to her with questions or concerns.
- e. Bike Walk Millburn (JM) – No update.

f. Downtown Area Vision Plan (PP) – Recent presentations by consultants discussed Essex Street as a two-way street and possibly Lackawanna, particulars to slow down traffic and add corridor of retail.

Township Committee Report (TP) – No report.

Planning Board report (JM) – No report.

New Business

- ⇒ Open Space Trust Fund (PP/RK/OS) – Need to evaluate what purchases could be made with the funds. Also, the reason behind establishing the tax, as the funds can be used for various open space purposes. Consider how much the tax should be. Parks, preserve open land, not looking for artificial turf fields or pocket parks. Need a sound approach and goal. Potential for 2022 ballot, as deadline for 2021 is April 2.
- ⇒ Update on Plastic Bag Ordinance amendments to definition of stitch handle bags. The Township Committee was recently alerted by ShopRite representatives to a legal clause regarding a moratorium on amendments to ordinances before state law goes into effect May 2022.

Old Business

- ⇒ Green Building Ordinance (EV/JM/EH) – JM - March agenda
- ⇒ Stormwater Management (EV/JM/EH)
Proposing a more robust ordinance for the town, Liz will draft; Ed will review. Similar to Watershed Institute model ordinance. Example – stormwater should be returned to the sight, address impervious coverage, smaller developments that are big. NJ Best Practices guidelines. Review for March agenda. NJSA 7:8 states Municipalities can be stricter than State.
- ⇒ Green Infrastructure Ordinance – JM – A redevelopment zone that follows LEED design – March agenda.

Announcements/Events/Miscellaneous

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

Joe Barbanel motion to adjourn, Odarka Stockert 2nd with all in favor.
Adjourn 8:23

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary