

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday March 12, 2019 7:30 pm

Millburn Town Hall

Minutes

Members(*liaison*):

Sarah Rosenthal, Vaclav E. Benes, *Dianne Eglow*, Lisa Chenofsky Singer, Joseph Barbanel, Alex Moaba, Edward Hilzenrath, Elizabeth Vollavanh, Priya Patel, Jorge Mastropietro

Secretary: Brian Zhu

Present: Sarah Rosenthal, Vaclav E. Benes, *Dianne Eglow*, Lisa Chenofsky Singer, Joseph Barbanel, Edward Hilzenrath, Elizabeth Vollavanh, Priya Patel, Jorge Mastropietro

Absent: Alex Moaba

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 as filed by the Environmental Commission and on bulletin board at Millburn Town Hall.*
- b. Meeting called to order.
 - a. 7:33 PM EST
- c. Acceptance of February 2019 minutes.
 - a. Minor changes, approved.
- d. Treasurers Report (Chenofsky Singer) ANJEC membership and training; outstanding payments
 - a. Requested but not yet received.
- e. 2019 Environmental Goals-Projects to be completed and new projects for 2019

Public Comments

Michelle Bradley Java Company Composting- DIY Backyard Composting Service

Jairo Gonzalez NJ Composting Committee

Isaac Bearg- Secretary of NJ Composting Council – Lobby for reducing legal restrictions on composting in New Jersey

- 973-477-9724, isaacbearg@gmail.com
- www.njcomposting.com
- Mission: The NJ Composting Council, a nonprofit industry group, advances compost manufacturing, compost utilization, and organics and food waste recycling to benefit our members, society, and the environment.

Township Committee: Current Project Report (Eglow)

- Working with Governor Murphy in Trenton, other people including Rep. Malinowski in Washington to find a way to control flooding.

Planning Board (Mastropietro)

- a. Site Plan Review-Pingry School Wetland Letter
 - i. The school didn't request a waiver for the lights, and have agreed to reduce the intensity of their lighting. Their application was approved.
 - ii. Other two issues were minor and easily approved.
- b. Master Plan Status
 - i. 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

Transportation

- a. Safe routes to School- Silver rating
- b. Bike and Walk Millburn (Available)

- c. Electric Charging Stations
- By the law, any plan must actually save money (at least a penny) in order to be enacted. Revenue neutral proposals do not qualify.
- d. Other

Sustainability

- a. Community Aggregation Proposal with Essex County (Vollavanh)
- b. NJ Energy (Moaba)
- NJ Energy came back to zoning, there was a small window to get something done
- Ordinance was put through last week that zones the use of the area (OR2), protecting it against being used for retail sales, which would prevent the gas station from going in
- c. Update Lighting Ordinance (Vollavanh)
- d. Wildflower Meadow (Vollavanh). ANJEC Grant Award Plan/April 2019 Exhibit at Library
- There is a plan in progress to use native plants for the Wildflower Meadow, going to tell a story about this to ANJEC
- Started to order plants, will likely plant in the middle of April or towards the end of April
- e. Other
 - A 2010 Ordinance says any township building must meet a minimum LEED requirement and developers must meet a sustainable building checklist. This could be the subject of future work

Communication

- a. Green Team Liaison (Patel & Vollavanh) Single Use Plastic Resolution (Chenofsky and Hilzenrath)
 - Single Use Plastic Resolution drafted, entering continuing revisions based on public meetings and hearings, will be ready to be presented within 2 months.
 - Ban on plastic bags with some exceptions (ie. Dry cleaning bags)
- b. MHS Liaison (Rosenthal)
 - On the recycling survey in the high school, teachers said to bring back battery recycling. Will work to explore options to make this happen.
- c. Millburn Township Green Schools
- d. Green Faith
- e. Other

Water

- a. Rahway Watershed Report (Vic)
 - i. The Watershed Association is preparing two panels.
- b. Taylor Park Rain Garden Survey
- c. Other

Event: April 7th in Taylor Park between 2 and 4 PM, different groups will put a proposal together to create wheels and they will be displayed in public around town.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:04 PM EST

Next MEC Meeting: Tuesday April 9, 2019

Workshops:

ANJEC March 16

Invasive Species Strike Team April