

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 @ 7:30 pm

MINUTES

Members: Joseph Barbanel, Edward Hilzenrath, Jorge Mastropietro, Sean O'Brien, Priya Patel (chair), Lisa Chenofsky Singer, Odarka Stockert, Elizabeth Vollavanh, Jack Wenzel(absent)

Township Committee Liaison: Tara Prupis

Secretary: Somil Agarwal(absent) Minutes taken by Vollavanh

Commission Business:

- a. Acceptance of December 2019 minutes APPROVED
- b. Treasurer Report (LCS) proposed budget expenses (no report due to illness).-Reimbursements: receipt for plastics ordinance, \$196, was submitted by Vollavanh
- c. Sunshine Law reminder: members may send out an email but responses may not "reply to all" because it becomes a discussion and therefore an unnoticed meeting
- d. Quorum is 4 members. This is calculated from 7 full members and 4 is more than half. Three members may meet without public notice.

Public Comment: Judith Rosenthal spoke on the proposed expansions in Turtle Back Zoo which would encroach into the South Mountain Reservation. An EIS has been requested but not submitted. Rosenthal is asking for the MEC to pass a Resolution condemning the development. She will submit the Resolutions passed by West Orange and Maplewood to the MEC for information. The expansion would clearcut approximately 1.5 acres outside the zoo.

Communication

- a. Single Use Plastic Ordinance Subcommittee (EH, PP, LCS) Vollavanh submitted approximately 50 copies of the informational flyer to be posted in the township, including the SH Mall, to educate and aid the merchants in enforcing the Plastic Ordinance which takes effect on June 12, 2020. Two hundred and fifty copies are available for posting. The plastic subcommittee will meet to organize this action.
- b. Green Team Liaison-O'Brien to volunteer as liaison. Green Fair is being organized for April 18th in Taylor Park
- c. MHS Liaison (JW) absent
- d. Millburn Township Green Schools Team Liaison (PP) Earth Day events being organized

Township Committee Report (TP) no report as the only Township meeting has been the reorganizational meeting. There was discussion about the parking situation in town and the MEC was referred to the Parking Committee for progress.

Planning Board Report (JM)

Site Plan Review. Discussion took place to determine how best to organize the Site Plan review. A subcommittee was organized, voted on and APPROVED by the MEC. The current project, 30 Willow Street, requires comments by January 15. The subcommittee will be led by Mastropietro and Vollavanh, with other Commissioners chiming in as needed.. The subcommittee will obtain all site plans and meet as needed to review plans and compile their recommendations. If timing permits, the subcommittee will present their recommendations at the monthly meetings for discussion; if not, then they will present their recommendations to the Planning Board on behalf of the MEC. A framework/checklist that would guide the site review process will be identified.

MEC 2020 Framework for Action discussion

A new framework for organizing the 2020 objectives of the MEC was introduced and discussed:

1. Built spaces
2. Natural spaces
3. Impact

4. Climate resilience
5. Greener government

During the discussion, members offered to lead each focus area and various action items were identified by the group for each (below as follows):

Built spaces

leads: Jorge and Liz

primary action is to conduct site review and provide recommendations/input to Planning Board

Natural spaces

leads: Joe and Odarka

initial action is to draft a resolution re: the proposed amphitheater in Turtleback Zoo

Impact

leads: Sean and Odarka

initial action is to work w/Rene from Green Team to build community and retailer awareness of plastics ordinance

Resilience

lead: Ed

initial action is to conduct research in the area of (but not limited to) stormwater management and if permeable pavement ordinance to mitigate flooding in township is a possibility

Greener government

lead: Priya

initial action is to meet w/Jesse and Alex from Town Hall to identify areas for improvement (e.g. greener purchasing policy) and to talk to Peter Schneider from GridMarket re: conducting a municipal energy audit

Announcements/Events/Miscellaneous

NJ Bike and Walk conference is March 7th.

ANJEC training is March 7, March 14, March 28th and is free to all Commissioners

Tara Prupis encouraged members to become involved to move important issues forward in the town

Next MEC meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 7:30pm, Millburn Town Hall