

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Wednesday February 13, 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 Hizenrath, Elizabeth Vollavanh, Priya Patel, Jorge Mastropietro

Secretary: Brian Zhu

Present: Sarah Rosenthal, Vaclav E. Benes, *Dianne Eglow*, Lisa Chenofsky Singer, Edward Hizenrath, Elizabeth Vollavanh, Jorge Mastropietro

Absent: Joseph Barbanel, Alex Moaba, Priya Patel

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. 7:31 PM EST
- c. Acceptance of January 2019 minutes.
 - a. Approved.
- d. Treasurers' Report (Chenofsky Singer) ANJEC membership and training; outstanding payments
 - a. No change.
- e. 2019 Environmental Goals-Projects to be completed and new projects for 2019

Public Comments- Absent due to rescheduling of committee meeting.

Michelle Bradley Java Company Composting

Jairo Gonzalez NJ Composting Committee

Township Committee: Current Project Report (Eglow)

- Minutes must be sent after approval so they can be posted online, and at the end of the year they can be posted physically in town hall
- On Friday there will be a meeting with the planner about the 24-hour ordinance
- Planners came up with an outline for the lighting ordinance

Planning Board (Mastropietro)

- a. Site Plan Review-Pingry School and Greenwood Gardens
 - i. Pingry School application has to go back for review because they were asked to provide a noise study which will be coming back next week
 - a. The neighbors complained about the noise and the bright lights
 - b. New plans have been received, but unsure if there is a lighting update available yet
 - ii. Greenwood Gardens lighting was approved with the condition that Martha will review the updated plans
- b. Master Plan Status
 - i. No update, revisions are still being made
 - ii. 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) NJ Annual Meeting February 23rd. Meeting is in Mercer County

- c. Electric Charging Stations
 - Maplewood has a program to encourage electric vehicles by giving them preferred parking spots at the train station

Sustainability

- a. Community Aggregation Proposal with Essex County (Vollavanh)
 - Headed by Maplewood.
 - Suggesting that green energy goes to 40%. They figure around 40% of the people opt out and about 60-70% of people stay in.
- b. NJ Energy (Moaba) no report
- c. Update Lighting Ordinance (Vollavanh) Planning Board has a temporary approval for LED update by the Township Planners, Preiss Phillips. It is recommended that lighting designers be retained for the Lighting Ordinance redline
- d. Wildflower Meadow (Vollavanh). ANJEC Grant Award Plan/April 2019 Exhibit at Library
 - Have been working on preliminary plans with Birch Hill for three areas in the Open Space. One goal is to prevent stormwater runoff. Any runoff will likely drain into a single area, making beds in that area a good area to plant
 - Meeting with Alex and Jesse tomorrow about the plans to introduce and receive permission for Tom Doty to prepare the site for planting.
 - There will be approximately 10 boards in the Millburn Library display during the month of April.
 - The planting event will be in late April. Volunteers will help plant.

Communication

- a. Green Team Liaison (Patel & Vollavanh) Single Use Plastic Resolution (Chenofsky and Hizenrath)
 - Work is mostly done, can be walked through with the entire Commission for the March meeting so there is a final proposal ready for the town.
 - Includes plastic bags, straws, and food containers. Other parties will have input, but hoping to include as much as possible.
 - Could get more info on plastic bags from the state capital by calling Assemblyman John McKeon's office.
- b. MHS Liaison (Rosenthal)
 - Date has been set for Aquafest, June 4th at Glenwood.
 - In need of guest speakers to talk to 3rd graders about water quality and environmental topics.
 - Eglow: can contact NJ American Water to find an associate who can speak
 - Can also contact Eric at Cora Hartshorn Arboretum to speak at the Aquafest
 - Millburn Environmental Club has been invited to Environmental Summit at Newark Academy
- c. Millburn Township Green Schools (no report)
- d. Green Faith

Water

- a. Rahway Watershed Report (Vic)
 - i. Rahway Watershed Association has been contacted to supply a poster to the library exhibit for the ANJEC grant.
- b. Stream Teams
- c. US Army Corps of Engineers

Meeting adjourned at: 8:31 PM EST

Next MEC Meeting: Tuesday March 12, 2019

Workshops:

ANJEC March 9th (though there are three different workshops)
NJ Native Plant Society Annual Meeting March 2nd

NJ Bike and Walk February 23rd

Pinelands Short Course March 9th

Invasive Species Strike Team March, in Duke Farms

Greenwood Gardens March 12th, workshop in the morning about trees.