

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday June 11, 2019 7:30 pm

Millburn Town Hall

Agenda

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: Vaclav E. Benes, Dianne Eglow, Lisa Chenofsky Singer, Elizabeth Vollavanh, Priya Patel, Jorge Mastropietro, Sarah Rosenthal

Absent: Alex Moaba, Edward Hilzenrath, Joseph Barbanel

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. **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. Meeting called to order.
 - a. 7:35 PM EST
- d. Acceptance of May 2019 minutes.
 - a. Accepted
- e. Treasurer's Report (Chenofsky Singer)
 - a. Budget approved, only thing removed is ANJEC membership. Should be about \$2146 remaining
 - b. Secretary fees to be deducted.
 - c. Stamps (\$56), mailing labels (\$15.98), and postcards (\$59.70) costs
 - i. Motion to reimburse \$131.68 to cover the costs
 1. Approved

Public Comment

- Rumors that there is property behind the high school that have turned off pumping, which has led to a buildup of excess water behind Willow Street
 - Concerns of mosquitoes and tick infestations because people can't mow their lawns and water isn't draining out anymore
 - All told about 8 to 10 homes facing this problem
 - Eglow: Will meet with an administrator tomorrow on the issue
- Richard Wasserman
 - Should prioritize phasing out styrofoam cups in favor of paper cups, as this should be an easy, low cost transition for businesses
 - Dunkin Donuts is already working on phasing out their styrofoam cups
 - There should be a resource assistance guide for merchants on how to adjust to a new ordinance for material disposal, etc

Township Committee: Current Project Report (Eglow)

- No support yet on intentional balloon release ban ordinance on the Township Council, but will follow up

Planning Board (Mastropietro)

- a. No planning board meeting last week- nothing to report
- b. Site Plan Review

c. Other

Communication

a. Single Use Plastic Resolution (Chenofsky, Hizenrath and Patel)

- One proposal was to have ShopRite take the lead on plastics because they already have a model they can use and because they have stores in multiple towns in the area, which could increase efficacy
- The food service industry seems united in their position- the state's resolution seems inevitable, likely to be passed after the election (in November), before the new administration takes place
 - includes exemptions for smaller retailers
 - The resolution will have to be reintroduced to the lame duck session in the state legislature after the election
- Maplewood has passed a plastics resolution (only bag ordinance)
 - Many towns have introduced bag ordinances, some have done straw ordinances, and only Monmouth Beach has banned all three plastics items
- Environmental Commission set to vote on the resolution next month then send it to the township commission
 - The intention of the Millburn ordinance is for it to be modeled off the state resolution banning all three items
 - In regards to starting with just the bags, the environmental commission will have to meet again to discuss this when more members are present.
 - Could begin with bags and then move on to bigger ticket items if the state does not act on their own
 - Liz and Priya have data to present to the township commission on the number of merchants attending and on considerations of co-sponsors and partnerships
 - Green Team has a six pronged strategy to deploy people into the community for education and advocacy in conjunction with the ordinance
 - Multiple exceptions to people who have to pay the fee, including anyone on economic assistance programs or who have disabilities
 - There are concerns about the pressures new regulation could put on businesses in town, who are already struggling
 - There are businesses in town who already have a desire to phase out plastics because of the high costs it puts on them, the ordinance could help encourage behavior change for businesses
 - Education on its own is not making the change, ordinance could make the difference
 - Could consider a purchasing group to bulk order material, which could decrease costs for businesses

b. Green Team Liaison (Patel)

c. MHS Liaison (Rosenthal)

- Aquafest generally went well, but there was a delay on the delivery of the plants and a few of the speakers had to pull out last minute
 - Plant delivery was cancelled because a late delivery wouldn't work, will check with the vendor to try to get the money back for the plant deliveries (cost was \$172 out of last year's budget)
 - Must confirm with the vendor whether the money has already been paid or not, then decide on a use for the flowers
 - The plants are black eyed susans, could try to find a use for these in town

d. Millburn Township Green Schools (Patel)

e. Green Faith

f. Other

Sustainability

a. Community Aggregation Proposal

c. Update Lighting Ordinance

- Will be looking at it Tuesday the 18th, presenting to the Planning Board on the 19th

- Beginning with the LED to get that started for the businesses while working through the rest of the packet for a later date
- d. Wildflower Meadow (Vollavanh). ANJEC Grant Award Plan/Planting, Maintenance and Final Report
 - Working on final report for ANJEC, spent all the money and planted everything. Heavy rain recently should mean that everything is growing well
- e. Other

Water

- a. Rahway Watershed Report (Benes)
 - i. Open house and ribbon cutting for a new Watershed Learning Center on the 15th
 - 1. The building is at a bridge across the Rahway River where the river is big, about a quarter mile from the public library
- b. Taylor Park Rain Garden Survey (Benes and Vollavanh)
 - i. Benes and Vollavanh meeting tomorrow morning at 9 am
 - ii. May purchase a sign to raise awareness for the existence of the rain garden
- c. South Mountain Conservancy Grant

Transportation

- Talking about some form of enforced carpooling for the Millburn Middle School because transportation is a disaster
 - a. Safe routes to School- Silver rating
 - b. Bike and Walk Millburn
 - c. Electric Charging Stations
 - d. Other

Meeting adjourned at: 8:56 PM EST

Next MEC Meeting: Tuesday July 9, 2019