

Millburn Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday, July 12, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

MINUTES

Members: Reade Kem (Chair), Debra Nevas, Priya Patel, Mark Robison, Elizabeth Vollavanh
Absent: Laura Kosik, Odarka Stockert and Roger Timpson.
Noah Packman has graduated from High School and is no longer a member.

Township Committee Liaison: Maggee Miggins

Secretary: Carolyn Scannelli

Call to Order: 7:00 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 June 12, 2022, minutes Reade Kem motioned to accept the minutes and Mark Robison 2nd, others in attendance who are eligible to vote are in favor.
- d) Treasurer Report – (RT) No report.

Public Comment – Mark Webb, Township resident, thought the meeting tonight was regarding 9 Main Street. Chairperson Kem clarified that 9 Main Street is still scheduled for tomorrow July 13.

Communication/Updates

- a) Millburn Green Team (MR) – No new updates.
- b) Shade Tree Advisory Board (EV) – Met with Jeff (new forester) and gave him the list of potential historic trees. It will take some time for him to inspect trees and report back.
- b) Millburn High School E-Club (NP) – Waiting to hear of new E-Club representative.

Township Committee Report (MM) – Focusing on ordinances for Fairshare Housing. Mayor Miggins is meeting with Taylor Park representatives this week. The Mayor will discuss with the Business Administrator vegetation cleanup (poison ivy) of NJ Transit track area. If NJ Transit's responsibility, she will call a representative.

Planning Board Report (DN) – July 6 meeting focused on the amendments to the ordinances connected to the overlays to the third round of the Fairshare Housing plan. At next week's meeting the Planning Board will discuss and possibly adopt the Fairshare Housing Plan which was rejected last month.

Zoning Board Report (LK) – No report

Old Business

- a) Lawn equipment / Gas powered blowers (RT) – No report.
- b) Tree Ordinance / Native & Invasive Plants Resolution (EV, MR, OS) – As per Mayor Miggins, the Township Committee will discuss Native and Invasive plants at the September 20th meeting. Reade spoke regarding an email he sent to commission members with a copy of the 2008 Invasive Species Management Plan that was completed for the township by Mike Van Clef from Ecological Solutions, this is posted on the township website. It is unsure if any of the recommendations on the plan were pursued. Reade proposed to have Mr. Van Clef speak (for a donation of \$250) to the Township Committee regarding the plan. Also, will contact Tom Doty to see if he has any knowledge regarding the plan. The Tree Ordinance needs further information and will be discussed at another meeting.
- c) 132 Millburn Ave/former Exxon station (PP) – Priya gave an update on the lot. NJ Energy LLC (property owner) has to remove three (3) UST's and they should be removed within the next 30-60 days/deadline October 20, 2022, in accordance with NJDEP. As per an LSRP representative assigned to this property, he does not believe there is any contamination, as the tanks are empty. If there is contamination, that could take years for remediation. It is unknown what would become of this lot. Maybe the town would try to acquire this lot for a pocket park, EV charging station or gateway into the township. NJ Brownfields Redevelopment Center offered an opportunity to a 10-minute presentation on September 20 and will give their expert their advice on the property and possibly opportunities for funds. The Township Administrator was going to reach out to the property owner to see if there is an interest in selling/donating the property. The property owners might want to put in another gas station.
- d) Stormwater Management/Green Infrastructure Ordinance (EV) – Liz will attend the Flood Mitigation Meeting July 20.

New Business –

Styrofoam (PP) - Residents are throwing away Styrofoam with their garbage instead of recycling at the town yard. Priya contacted Jesse in Admin, who will contact the garbage company as to why they are collecting it. They should not be picking up the Styrofoam and should notify those residents to dispose of it at the town yard.

Additional Public Comment

Mark Webb spoke regarding concerns of the Spotted Lantern Fly and asked if it could be added to the native/invasion plant study. He also questioned the redevelopments on Millburn Ave with regard to 4 story residential buildings with a mix of restaurants and other commercial businesses to be included with the redevelopment plan. Mayor Miggins referred to www.njactb.org to check ownership of properties. The areas in question are considered overlay zones, which gives the property owners the opportunity to be developed. Mayor Miggins offered to speak with Mr. Webb at his convenience regarding his concerns.

Announcements/Events

Tour de Millburn this year is scheduled for Sept. 18th this year:

<https://twp.millburn.nj.us/543/Tour-de-Millburn>

NJ Transit Sustainability Plan

NJT is developing its sustainability strategy and is hosting public webinars to gather public input on which issues it should prioritize. Reade stated that NJT's preliminary issue list does not appear to include maintenance of environmental factors along rail routes, e.g. control of invasive plants. Anyone interested in sending comments to NJT regarding its plans can do so by emailing sustainability@njtransit.com. If any EC members would like to send a message from the EC, please contact Reade to coordinate. NJT will hold its next webinar on August 4th from 3:00–4:30pm; registration is here:

<https://www.njtransit.com/sustainabilityplan..>

Reade Kem motion to adjourn, Mark Robison 2nd with all in favor.

Adjourn 7:53

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary