

## Montclair Environmental Commission

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Monthly Public Meeting Minutes

Edgemont Memorial Park Shelter House

**Commissioners Present:** William Dunnell, Steven Wright, Rita Singer, Howard Greenspan, Imke Oster, Jerry Marcus.

**Commissioners Absent:** Dan Nachman, James Sherman

**Liaisons:** Gray Russell (absent), Cary Africk (absent)

**Visitors:** Tanya Drobness, Michael Yellin, Roger Karapin

- I. Formalities, Administration, Notices, Introductions
  - a. September Meeting minutes - to be distributed prior to November meeting
  - b. Alternate Commissioner nomination– MEC recommended Michael Yellin’s to Council – no response yet
  
- II. MEC Presentation – the upcoming Commission presentation to the Council was discussed and the agenda was circulated for discussion (see attached). Approved.
  
- III. Leaf Blower Ordinance (Roger/Jerry)
  - a. Final draft with FAQ presented by Roger. Approved by Commission to be forwarded to the Council for consideration
  
- IV. Sustainable Montclair Planning Guide Implementation Update (Gray – not present – not discussed)
  - a. Bike path easement grant application status – no response from DOT – had over 250 application thusfar
  - b. Urban Design Group (Bloomfield Ave corridor between Valley and North Mountain). WWD outlines issue based on conversation and notes from Gray Russell; Howard volunteers to participate in UDG with William and Steven.
  
- V. Shade Tree Commission & Ordinance (James/Dan – neither present)

SW from JS - two possible approaches are being explored by a committee of legal and environmental experts at the State level – a) model ordinance at created at state level for adoption at local level by municipalities or b)a purpose-made ordinance for Montclair only.
  
- VI. ANJEC/ACEEA
  - a. Update on matching funding for recent recycling element grant (Gray) \$3,000 – SW understood that Town could not match funds and therefore the grant would be returned to ANJEC. Commissioners agree that a letter to ANJEC explaining situation is appropriate, or possibly a call from Gray. Rita suggested researching whether ANJEC allows private donors to match grant funds.

VII. Update Reports

- a. Bonsal Park (Rita) nothing to report
- b. Planning Commission (Dan – not present) - nothing to report
- c. .
- d. Lead content in artificial grass surface at sports fields (Steven) nothing new to report

VIII. Action Items for discussion with new Council and Mayor (from June, July and September meetings)

- a. Shade Tree Ordinance (after finalizing using forthcoming State template)
- b. Wildwood Tract/Open Space
- c. Leaf Blower Ordinance
- d. Energy Audit
- e. Recycling awareness

See agenda for Presentation to the Council

IX. New Ideas/Emergent Issues

- a. Education outreach to residents regarding tree planting and replacement. SW suggests school liaisons; Rita recommends CGI and Key Club at high school.
- b. Consider making free trees available to township available to residents as incentive to plant/replace trees.
- c. Research incorporating bike ped elements into Township's capital budget to qualify for 100% reimbursement.
- d. Consider a public information campaign to residents about planting new trees (native species that the town could buy in bulk)
- e. Consider recycling initiatives to get different groups (MSU or Middle/High School students) to form teams carrying random waste inspections. Monitor results and look for ways to increase recycling rates and reduce waste.

X. Next Meeting: November 12th, 7:30 PM

XI. Adjourn – in time for the Presidential Debate

Sign-In Sheet

Present	Name	Title/Role	email	Telephone
O	Cary Africk	Council Liaison		
X	William Dunnell	Co-Chair MEC		
X	Howard Greenspan	MEC Commissioner		
X	Jerry Marcus	MEC Commissioner		
O	Dan Nachman	MEC Comm/Plan Bd.		
X	Imke Oster	MEC Commissioner		
O	Gray Russell	Township Liasion		
O	James Sherman	MEC Commissioner		
X	Rita Singer	MEC Commissioner		
X	Steven Wright	Co-Chair MEC		
X	Tanya Drobness	Montclair Times rptr.		
X	Michael Yellin	Public		
X	Roger Karapin	Public/ volunteer		
X	Gary Obsarny	Township - invited		