

Montclair Environmental Commission Meeting Agenda

November 1, 2023 at 7:30pm

Meeting at the Municipal Building in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Type of Meeting: Monthly

Facilitator: Ben Rich

Note Taker: Janine Salvador

Commissioners: Suzanne Aptman (Co-Chair), Ben Rich (Co-Chair), Keith Brodock, Janine Salvador (Secretary), Imke Oster, Mac Carbonnell

Excused: Bill Martens

Township Liaison: Lisa Johnson

Township Council Liaisons: Lori Price-Abrams, Councilor (excused); Sean Spiller, Mayor (excused)

Call the meeting to order: Time 7:40 PM

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was published on the Montclair Township website, Montclair Local annually, and MEC website.

7:30 - Call the meeting to order, Welcome & Introductions - Ben Rich

7:31 - Approval July 2023 Minutes - Ben Rich

Yea= 4 , Nay= 0 , Abstain= 0

7:33 - Approval September 2023 Minutes - Ben Rich

Yea= 6 , Nay= 0 , Abstain= 0

7:35 - Reports/Updates (input/decision/action needed or action completed)

- Shade Tree Ordinance Enforcement
 - More anecdotal evidence that the existing shade tree ordinance is not sufficiently enforced.
 - MEC has a draft proposal for an enforcement process. Adoption was scuttled by Covid. This will be reviewed in depth after January.
 - Meanwhile, MEC will write a letter to tree contractors reminding them of tree replacement rules/procedures.
 - MEC will also work on an ordinance to govern trees planted on municipal and county owned land
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- BOE tree update
 - Renovations to Woodman field proceeding.
 - Number of trees to be removed reduced from 20 to 15.
 - Suggestions from MEC members and other residents prompted BOE to focus on native species for new trees that will be planted.

- Suggested that MEC write a letter requesting more transparency in decisions going forward.
- If a public tree ordinance is created, it is unclear if BOE would fall under its jurisdiction.
- Climate Action Plan discussion
 - Audience for plan is township officials, residents, and to a lesser degree business owners.
 - New plan developed – incorporated many elements from MEC developed plan; incorporated feedback from Montclair Climate Action and others; structured to align with other climate action plans; expanded focus.
 - Original MEC plan – revised and condensed, incorporating MEC feedback from previous versions.
 - [July 2021 Resolution calling for the MEC to produce a Climate Action Plan](#) – details the specific request and scope of plan.
 - MEC to review both plans and determine which to move forward.
- Conservation Element of the Master Plan Update
 - MEC to review and begin tasks.
- December meeting will be moved to Dec. 13 at Imke Oster's house, post notice to contact MEC for meeting location.

Adjournment 9:00 PM Next Meeting: December 13, 2023

Upcoming Local Environmental Events:

November 13 at 7pm - [Essex County Environmental Commission Stormwater and You](#)