Montclair Environmental Commission MINUTES (Final) – Jan 13, 2021
email info@mtcenv.org for the Zoom link

Type of Meeting: Monthly
Facilitator: Ben Rich
Note Taker: Nicol Sobczyk
Voting Commissioners: Ben Rich (Co-Chair), Suzanne Aptman (Co-Chair), Nicol Sobczyk (Secretary), Lyle Landon, Keith Brodock (Planning Liaison), Janine Salvador (Webmaster)
Absent: Imke Oster

Alternates: Mac Carbonnell, Bill Martens (proposed)
Associates: Bill Martens
Montclair Liaison - Gray Russell, Montclair Sustainability Officer
Township Council Liaison: Sean Spiller, Mayor
Guests: Peter Holm, Benjamin Bright, Janine Cox, Judith (Quiet Montclair)

Call the meeting to order: Time 7:32pm
This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

7:30 - Welcome & Introductions - Ben
7:35 - Approval December 2020 Minutes - Nicol; unanimously approved. (Link)
7:40 - Reports/Updates
1. Reorganizing: - Ben & Suzanne
   a. Commission & Committee goals/projects (committees to discuss/suggest by next meeting or so)
      i. Suzanne’s suggestions:
         1. Keep in mind the volunteer spirit of MEC.
         2. Make the goals ambitious, but not unrealistic.
         3. Emissions reductions and true environmental impacts.
      ii. Montclair 2021 goals TBD; will be budget oriented.
         1. Montclair does have GHG reduction goals / metrics (TBC). Energy committee to include in 2021 goals accordingly.
      iii. Next steps:
         1. Committees to meet offline and set proposed goals. Send to Ben and Suzanne to ensure alignment and create master list to discuss at meeting. Target - prior to Feb mtg
   b. Suggested Committee names tweaks (By-Law modification required/vote)
      i. Names (already modified in By-Laws Jan 13)
         1. Communication (Janine, Lyle, Nicole): Facebook, Instagram, Website.
         2. Energy Conservation & Transportation (Ben, Gray, Bill, Suzanne): clean energy. aggregation, gas powered cars and machinery, alternative transportation - electric, bikes.
         3. Green Development & Site Plan Review (Ben, Mac, Bill): Site plans; green checklist; efficient buildings.
         4. Recycling & Waste Reduction (Janine, Nicole, Lyle): recycling, plastic bag ban, waste reduction (e.g.composting).
         5. Trees & Natural Resources (Suzanne, Imke, Mac): trees, water, natural resources.
ii. Voted to put names specified above in the by-laws.

c. **By-Laws** require 2021 Meeting Schedule established (discuss - 1st wed of month as new date/vote)
   ii. Voted to move meetings to 1st Wednesdays of the month @ 7:30pm; Nicol to advise town with updated calendar for 2021 accordingly.
      1. August 2021 meeting to be cancelled.

2. Website, other - Janine
   a. Finalizing next steps in January.

3. Township budget - Suzanne
   a. Goal: MEC to advocate (via letter to council) for / support initiatives. Suzanne will send email request with specifics to Commissioners before next meeting.

4. Site Plan Review - plan received - Ben, Mac, Bill
   a. Tony’s Kitchen - door change; reusing the concrete. No proposed modifications.

5. Planning board meeting Stormwater Mgmt/Complete SAFE Streets - Keith, Suzanne, Ben
   a. Suzanne presented stormwater mgmt actions and proposed things such as:
      1. Asking consideration of day lighting streams.
      2. Prioritize recommended actions including native vegetation.
      3. Consider impervious surfaces for pedestrian surfaces (not just vehicles).
   ii. Planning board asked for ideas in writing, to be red-lined into ordinance.
   iii. Next step: Suzanne will share with Natural Resource committee to review changes before sending to Commission/Planning Board.
   iv. NOTE: Council must vote on Jan 19, so it was too late to include MEC changes before that vote. Will look to add as an amendment later.

b. Planning Board Application - 70 Park Street:
   i. Asking to increase impervious coverage.
   ii. Members required no net increase in stormwater runoff in condition of approval.

c. Lyle update: Governor’s office will require climate change considerations in future master plans.

6. Sustainability Office - Gray
   a. Residential energy aggregation program:
      i. Enabling all residents in Montclair to use 2x the amount of renewable energy (~40%) vs rest of NJ (20%).
         1. 10% (~1400) homes opted out of the program.
         2. Potential opportunity for pro-active education in appropriate Facebook groups, media.
      ii. Cooperative purchase made in 2019 to boost purchase of renewable energy (40%) with 10% savings.
         1. NOTE: 20% of all energy must come from renewable energy sources.
      iii. Renewal targeting April 2021.
         1. Expanded to 2 more towns.
         2. Will be PJM generated (wind or solar or low impact hydro or landfill gas that’s generated in NJ/PA/OH/DE/MD)
         3. Savings = 1.5%.
         4. Double the clean energy at no additional cost.
         5. Largest clean energy program in NJ.
      iv. Gray requested 300 LED bulbs to give away to Montclair residents.
v. Note: opportunities to go to 100% renewable energy for ~$10 per month per household. Will be highlighted in communications to the public by town, as pointed out by Mayor Spiller.

b. Municipal town buildings were part of energy savings. $60k annual savings. No longer valid. Cancelled due to accounting issues.
   1. To explore reinstating.

c. Events 2021 expected to be cancelled based on current state of COVID.
   i. Shred Fest April 2021
   ii. Repair Cafe
   iii. EV Event.

d. Community Solar - in the pipe. To be discussed in Community Climate group meeting (organized by David Korfhage).

7. Styrofoam Recycling - Lyle
   a. With single use plastic bag, Styrofoam clamshells will also be banned effective May 2022.
   b. Fairlawn, Springfield - both offer styrofoam drives.
   c. Waste in Montclair goes to an incinerator in Newark.
   d. To be discussed further at the Recycling & Waste Reduction committee.

8. Reminder of rules for distribution of agendas and minutes:
   a. No later than 48 hours prior to a meeting, Co-Chair will share draft agenda electronically with the Commissioners for comment.
   b. Final agendas for meetings shall be posted by the Chairpersons or Secretary, in a conspicuous place, no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

   a. Scope of install TBD.

Calendar

Feb 11-13 Northeast Earth Coalition Event
Mar 2 – Stormwater management ordinance implementation. (Council approves it 1/19)

Adjournment 9pm          Next Meeting: Feb 3, 7:30pm EST          Note Taker Nicol Sobczyk
Zoom Meeting information:
Topic: Montclair Environmental Commission Monthly

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84270255919?pwd=V0UvL1ZFekZnU3NSS2RPQjBaVnczdz09

Meeting ID: 842 7025 5919
Passcode: MEC_2020
===============