Montclair Environmental Commission MINUTES – May 5, 2021

Type of Meeting: Monthly
Facilitator: Ben Rich
Commission Secretary: Nicol Sobczyk
Voting Commissioners: Suzanne Aptman (Co-Chair), Ben Rich (Co-Chair), Nicol Sobczyk (Secretary), Keith Brodock (planning board member & liaison), Janine Salvador (Webmaster), Imke Oster
Excused: Lyle Landon
Alternates: Bill Martens, Mac Carbonell
Montclair Liaison - Gray Russell, Montclair Sustainability Officer
Township Council Liaison: Mayor Sean Spiller
Guests: Pedro Luna, Victoria Luna, Eleni Luna, Christina Luna, Adamantia Luna, Peter Holm (Quiet Montclair), Sally Elyson (volunteer with NJ Audubon Society)

Call the meeting to order: Time 7:36pm.
This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

7:30 - Welcome & Introductions – Ben
7:35 - Approval April 2021 Minutes – Nicol. Approved.
7:40 - Reports/Updates (input, action needed/completed)

1. General: Sustainable Jersey Special Committee (leads: Janine, Keith, Suzanne)
   a. Goal for today: Vote to establish a special committee that would do Sustainable Jersey work. Benefit: organize for sustainability points; help guide alignment with mec work. This is an iteration of a historical committee; just formalizing as per by-laws.
   b. Committee could target to create a “Green team” or hopefully MEC be the Green Team since it is only a requirement for certification. Makes it easier/efficient. Some towns have EC as Green Team.
   c. Certification levels = bronze or silver. Process for certification takes 2-3 years; effective for 3-4 years.
   d. MEC will collaborate with new Enviro Coordinator: June 2022 is when next certification period takes place.
   e. Commission voted in favor of establishing the Sustainable Jersey Committee.

2. Energy:
   a. May 15th Leaf Blower Deadline
      i. Target: communication around upcoming deadline on gas-powered leaf blowers.
      ii. Concerns with enforcement during the weekends.
      iii. Township could send a notice to the registered landscapers in town.
      iv. MEC action; Communication work with Energy Cttee on --
         1. Blog post (see one posted already)
         2. Instagram
         3. Possibility to mirror fliers used in other towns
   b. EV Ordinance (SJ - EV Friendly Town)

3. Site Plan & Green Buildings:
   a. Lackawanna Development
   b. Meeting w/ Bike/Walk Montclair

4. Trees & Natural Resources:
   a. Tree seedlings giveaway: big success; gave away over 250 seedlings
   b. Water pump re-plantings – trees have been removed at Lorraine Park by DeNovo. Looking at planting native trees.
   c. Yard care: 6-week campaign around “all 7 best practices” … would be collected via form. Awareness campaign around yards that conserve water, air pollution,, etc.
      i. Arbor Day would be the platform to launch it.
      ii. 250 people’s yards would be the initiation.
      iii. Suzanne to launch.

5. Waste: Styrofoam
   a. Approval for 8 consecutive Saturdays of Styrofoam recycling at DPW lot, starting June 5.
   b. Sign up for volunteering here: sign-up sheet

6. Mayor Spiller: Board of Ed to evaluate in-house bussing program. MEC Energy Committee would consult re: electric buses.

Calendar
6/1-6/5 NJ Bike Walk Summit

Adjournment 8:41pm   Next Meeting: June 2, 2021
Note Taker Nicol Sobczyk