

Environmental Commission Board Meeting – December 13, 2022

Call to Order by Secretary (due to technical difficulties Chairwoman was having on her end)

Open Public Meeting Notice read by Commission Lawyer

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence led by Secretary Cohl

Roll Call taken by Commission Lawyer – See the table below on page 3

Public Hearings: No new applications

Open Discussion:

1. Tree City USA
 - a. Toni Sapio confirmed with Arbor Day Foundation that salaries do account for portion of the expense requirements. This information was forwarded to Meredith and Brandon.
 - b. Application deadline for NJ is 2/15/2023
 - c. Resolution or Affirmation will also be required.
 - d. Bill Giegerich will follow up with Meredith
2. Community Solar
 - a. Gina Cohl sent Press release to township for quarterly newsletter after the November meeting but have not heard anything. Councilwoman Cohen will follow up
 - b. Trish Hochrieter, the township administrator for the affordable program provided several contact phone numbers to Gina Cohl. Yvette from Solar Landscape recommends township making first contact about program perhaps a zoom meeting w/Yvette to discuss program & municipal personnel.
 - c. Delran will be holding their town hall on Jan 9th at 7pm. It would be a good idea for Mount Laurel to hold something similar in January or February.
 - d. Gina Cohl will be installing a Library Display for Community Solar
3. Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA)
 - a. November 14th meeting with township personnel. Gina Cohl requested an update.
 - b. Councilwoman Cohen attended meeting. PPA sent template/resolution that would be needed from township to start project.
 - c. EC Board voted on having a rain garden installed. See vote on page 3.
 - d. Suitable site would need to be selected
 - e. Once approved township & Rutgers' engineer will come out & develop plan.
4. Library Displays
 - a. Beside the Community Solar display, Gina Cohl has signed up for a display case for April.
 - b. April is Earth week – Managing Food Waste at home and Backyard Composting will be the focus of this display. Gina Cohl will reach out to the library to conduct a series of talks on the two subjects.
5. Plastic Film Recycling
 - a. Marty Levin finished collecting 500lbs of film and bench will be donated to library
 - b. County is working with Treks as well and would like townships to collect and drop off can be done at Recovery Center

- c. It would be good for township to begin a second collection with Public Works managing it. Bench could be installed in one of our parks.
 - d. Bill Giegerich will follow up with Meredith.
- 6. Christmas Light Recycling
 - a. Township will put out a collection bin at the recycling center for residents to drop off holiday lights for recycling.
- 7. Sustainable Jersey Recertification – Mount Laurel Certification expires 2023
 - a. Round 1 deadline 2/26/23; 2nd deadline 5/12/23; all correction due for final deadline 7/27/23
 - b. May be able to get extension but we do need to begin start working on this
 - c. Gina Cohl will get clarification from SJ on the active status of the Green Team
 - d. Gina Cohl requested an update on the status of the \$10,000 SJ grant for the farmer’s Market
- 8. Voluntary Local Review
 - a. Mr. Singh reviewed the program and made recommendations
 - b. There are 17 Sustainability Goals (SDGs) – see graphic below
 - c. Methodology and process reviewed. The review can address the five SDGs prioritized, namely SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 13 (Climate Action). Including complete information about all 17 SDGs would make the report unwieldy.
 - d. Evidence based approach to develop township programs and Ordinances. Phase wise implementation was outlined as well.

Sustainable Development Goals



The 2022 Annual Report will be prepared by Toni Sapio

Meeting Adjourned – motion by Marinna Seemuller and 2nd by Sandra Carleton. All were in Favor.

Next Meeting is Tuesday January 10, 2023 at 7pm.

Environmental Commission Board Attendance - 12/13/22

		Attendance	Absent
Chairwoman	Marinna Seemuller	x	
Member	Sandra Carleton	x	
Member	Gina Cohl	x	
Member	Bhupindar Singh	x	
Member – Planning Board Rep	Ramesh Venkatakrishnan	x	
Member Alt 1	Christopher Hughes		x
Member Alt 2	Mandy Skalski		x
Councilmember	Karen Cohen	x	
Township Rep	William Giegerich	x	
Professional	Toni Sapio	x	
Lawyer	Ron Cucchiaro	x	

Vote on Adopting Minutes from 11/8/22

		Motion	AYE	NAY	Abstained	Absent
Chairwoman	Marinna Seemuller	2	x			
Member	Sandra Carleton	1			x	
Member	Gina Cohl		x			
Member	Bhupindar Singh				x	
Member – Planning Board Rep	Ramesh Venkatakrishnan		x			
Member Alt 1	Christopher Hughes				x	
Member Alt 2	Mandy Skalski				x	

Vote on rain garden

		Motion	AYE	NAY	Abstained	Absent
Chairwoman	Marinna Seemuller	2	x			
Member	Sandra Carleton	1	x			
Member	Gina Cohl		x			
Member	Bhupindar Singh		x			
Member – Planning Board Rep	Ramesh Venkatakrishnan		x			
Member Alt 1	Christopher Hughes					x
Member Alt 2	Mandy Skalski					x