

Bloomfield Environmental Commission – Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2020

Present: Oliver Young, Rich Moseson, Cailyn Bruno, Flint Kinkade, Nick Joanow, Matthew Sweet

Absent: Greg Babula

Meeting start time: 7:34pm

Old Business:

1. December 2019 minutes approved.
2. Reorganization/2020 meeting dates—Meetings will now begin at 7:30. Dates for the 2020 calendar were read and agreed upon. Reviewed member status and terms. Positions for Cailyn, Greg, and Rich will be confirmed at the next meeting for 3-year terms. BEC has 2 vacant seats for alternate positions. Nick will tell the Clerk to add position confirmations to agenda and will update the website. Commission agreed to nominate Oliver to official Chair, Cailyn Secretary.
3. Bloomfield Buzz – Topic for article agreed to be advertisement for BEC with our position vacancies, meeting time/location, etc.
4. Rat poison – Still no response from the Health Dept. Doesn't appear there's a lot of wiggle room in their procedures as they're in line with state standards. BED will consider publishing a buzz article about how we can avoid creating harborage for rodents for the purpose of protecting wildlife. Township itself puts out few traps—most are from private pest control.
5. ERI subcommittee – Oliver looked and made some edits. Next step is to coordinate with Nick to submit to township planner and administrator. Commission reviewed draft RFP and made suggested revisions. Discussed historical properties/features—the council just approved an inventory to survey these properties as part of the master plan, and hope that this info will then be digitized. Looked at the index and made some changes.
6. Sustainable Jersey/Greener Bloomfield – It was discussed that the BEC can potentially leverage money from Greener Bloomfield to use for the ERI, which means we need to pursue certification and figure out logistics of continuing the green team. The BEC aims to focus on this in February. We'll need to get organized to break up the work for the recertification.
7. 71 locust – Rich sent a note to Eduardo (property owner/developer) and got a response but no additional information. We need to know soon if the property owner wants us to take temporary custody of plants or if they will be donating them. By February we need to organize volunteers to work to remove/take plants. It was noted that the plants need a fair amount of sun.
8. Mayor's Monarch Pledge – Councilman Rich Rockwell is coordinating Bloomfield's participation in the Pledge. We will need to wait for springtime to act.
9. ANJEC EV charging resolution – Nick will be coordinating with Township Clerk to get approval for the resolution since township is expanding charging stations.

10. Leaf Mulching/Bagging Conflict – Nick to reach out to Health Dept inspector to get more details on citation discussed in the last meeting. Rich investigated language in the township ordinance and started a draft for revision. We reviewed and discussed. Agreed to table until February meeting.

New Business:

1. Paint Stewardship Bill – Discussed this pending state bill regarding architectural paint that aims to promote reuse and recycling. This bill passed and is awaiting gov's signature. Permanent collection sites must be established to give people an option. Sherwin Williams or Home Depot must set up the site.
2. Pollinator Pathways – Discussed a pending federal bill to provide funding for state and local governments to add pollinator pathways along roadways.
3. February 2020 Recycling Committee invite – guest speaker Amanda Nesheiwat – Environmental Director of Secaucus that enacted plastic bag/Styrofoam ban. Plastic bag ban passed in the state senate, but it needs to be posted and go to assembly. ANJEC encourages municipalities to continue to pass local ordinances. RC meeting is 2nd Wednesday of the month, Oliver will forward invite to BEC.
4. January Planning Board Agenda – Discussed the proposed development that's part of Garrabrant estate. The proposal is to subdivide the residential lot into 3, which is currently allowed based on lot size. BEC discussed taking a proactive stance because such development can stress the environment, resources, and change the neighborhood. BEC discussed possible ordinance restricting lot size on any new subdivision.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.