

Bloomfield Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2020

Call to order @ 7:39

Roll Call: Greg Babula, Nick Joanow, Rich Moseson, Matthew Sweet, Cailyn Bruno. Guests Florence Rollino, Simon Galperin

Old Business

1. January minutes approved
2. Swearing in held to next meeting, Nick will bring script
3. Bloomfield Buzz – Rich drafted an e-Buzz article about alternatives to using rat bait. Commission reviewed. Rich will submit.
4. Rat Poison – No update. Commission will consider putting together a press release for public education at next meeting.
5. ERI Subcommittee – Oliver and Nick submitted RFP to township administrator. Bonnie Flynn will review and has been assigned the point person. Commission discussed next steps after ERI, including looking at ordinances to see if they properly protect our natural resources identified in the ERI. Commission will follow up on the status of the RFP after 1 month and consider inviting Bonnie Flynn to a future commission meeting.
6. Sustainable Jersey Recertification – Oliver got note from Heather Nolan asking about participation from members of Greener Bloomfield (GB) moving forward. Nick spoke with Oliver regarding the process of incorporating GB, and with the support of GB, BEC can absorb as subcommittee. BEC agrees to appoint subcommittee for this purpose. Oliver to appoint the BEC members to the subcommittee. Agreed to focus on recertification and devote to a working session during next meeting. Matt reached out to Judith Earley, who forwarded contact info Kaitlyn Vollmer (grants@sustainablejersey.com 609-771-3189, grants administrator for Sustainable Jersey).
7. 71 Locust St – Oliver was in touch with the owner/developer, he is good with the timetable of sometime in April for removal of the milkweed plants. Commission agreed it's best to get people to take them permanently. Rich read a summary of meeting and results of site walk. April 18th or May 2nd identified as potential dates to remove them. Looking to get 10-15 bags of topsoil from public works at a drop-off point on site. Rich will coordinate this drop off with the owner/developer. Need a team to get in there and dig up the plants, put in planters, and transport. Rich has identified 3 possible places for these plants (potential for 30-50 plants) Milbank Park garden (fence with concrete wall behind it), Watsessing Park pollinator garden, Oakeside community garden? (better for milkweed to be along a fence or something, not a plot).

8. Mayor's Monarch Pledge – no update, waiting for Spring
9. Leaf Mulching/Bagging Conflict – Issue was due to neighbor complaint, not a policy or part of a crackdown. Discussion on how the ERI might inform how this is something we can look at down the road holistically on how to 'naturalize' our urban community.

New Business

1. Recycling Committee Guest Speaker (Amanda Nesheiwat)– Secaucus implemented a bag ban (single use/paper). Secaucus has a Walmart and CVS stores. She reported they had no resistance from Walmart (80K bags per weekend) or CVS. Only resistance was from senior citizen community. From a state policy standpoint, in the short term it seems like a state ban is not imminent. We need to consider something on a local level to put pressure on the state level. ANJEC has a model ordinance—should we advocate for the council to pass a resolution to encourage the council to consider a ban ordinance. Revisit this next month.
2. Girl Scout Event – at DPW yard—Girl Scouts going for a badge. Event at 10:30-11:30am on 3/14. Let Oliver know if you are available.

Adjourned 9:18pm