

## Bloomfield Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2020

Call to order on Zoom @ 7:40

Roll Call: Greg Babula, Nick Joanow, Rich Moseson, Oliver Young, Cailyn Bruno. Guests Florence Rollino, Heather Nolan, Elizabeth Pacheco-Fallon

### Old Business

1. February minutes approved
2. Swearing in held to June meeting
3. 71 Locust Ave – EC has been working cooperatively with the property owner to transplant 75-100 milkweed plants in community gardens and individuals, including Millbank Park, Collins House, Morris Canal park greenway area, and Pulaski Park. EC should put together a buzz article or press release about different committees working together and with the developer for this project.
4. Rat Poison – No update.
5. ERI Subcommittee – Bonnie Flynn has our estimate and RFP. We should expect schedule and budget impacts from COVID19 public health emergency.
6. Sustainable Jersey Recertification – Recertification deadline has been pushed a year, first submittal due June 2021 (need to verify). Commissioners on Green Team -- Cailyn, Matt, Oliver. Green Team – Heather, Elizabeth, Angie, Florence. Will set up working meeting at future EC mtg (not June). Green Team should meet on the side and get together an agenda to present to the EC. Nick can facilitate and be the link between Green Team and Twp. Municipality will return to full operation in June. Oliver will put together email group w/ subcommittee and green team members.
7. Mayor's Monarch Pledge – No update. Rich Rockwell requested moving forward with these actions once the public health emergency has abated.
8. 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. Plastic Bag Ban – Still stalled at the state level. EC Should advocate for moving forward, other towns haven't backed off their bans during the public health emergency and 2 others have passed bans during this time. EC will put together proposed ordinance to present to the Mayor, to gain direction and get administration's opinion. It was discussed to start with ANJEC model ordinance and look at other towns' addendums because there are a lot of details. Oliver will circulate ANJEC's model ordinance.
2. Girl Scout Event – canceled

3. Energy Aggregation – EC discussed citizen’s request letter to consider township energy aggregation. It is unclear whether aggregate energy is available in NJ according to the cited website.
4. Food waste ordinance – NJ Legislature and Governor passed Food Waste Bill 23-71 to take effect Oct 2021. Bill states that food waste generated within the municipality should be kept local (within 25 miles) for composting or reuse. EC should investigate options. Food waste represents 1/3 of municipal garbage and could save a lot of money if we could divert that waste to something like an aerobic digester.
5. Tree Ordinance – Township will replace a tree on a planting season schedule in Nov. If a homeowner doesn’t want to wait, it is proposed to amend the tree ordinance so that they can take expense on their own and will need a permit from the DPW. The township arborist will meet the homeowner and will give a choice of type of tree, which will then be maintained by the township moving forwards. Nick will ask DPW to put together draft for the amendment to the ordinance.

Adjourned 8:55pm