

Bloomfield Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2020

Call to order on Zoom @ 8:09

Roll Call: Nick Joanow, Rich Moseson, Oliver Young, Cailyn Bruno, Flint Kinkade. Guests
Florence Rollino

May minutes approved.

Old Business

1. Bloomfield Buzz Articles - EC reviewed Buzz article on pollinator paths put together by Rich. Next ebuzz will be in August. Idea for next buzz article: NJ food waste bill
2. Rat Poison Issue – No update. Health Dept. posted recommendations on Facebook regarding household garbage needing to be placed in bins with lids, since rodents are more active now that restaurant dumpsters are not being used.
3. ERI Subcommittee – Oliver followed up with Bonnie Flynn, who had a question about the projected budget. EC will get further clarification from Nick next week after council meeting.
4. Sustainable Jersey Recertification – Green Team/subcommittee needs to have separate meeting before the July EC meeting.
5. 71 Locust Avenue (milkweed) – EC dug up ~45 more milkweed plants, currently in Watsessing Park butterfly garden almost ready for adoption. Already distributed a lot to public, community, and private gardens. Rich and Susan are contacting other groups to see if they want to go over and retrieve what they can from the site. Could this be an innovative project for SJ? It was suggested we should take some pictures and document the project.
6. Plastic Bag Ban – Oliver will send out ANJEC sample ordinance for review. Oliver reviewed ANJEC, Montclair, and Jersey City's ordinances and provided discussion on the details of each: ANJEC's is the longest, has a lot of exclusions for 'carry out' bags, unclear exclusions based on size of retail space. Montclair's only applies to high volume retail establishments but doesn't define what that means – mentions supermarkets and pharmacies (only plastic). JC – affects every retailer, plastic and non-recyclable bags. EC discussed being sensitive to current situation with business owners, and it was suggested meeting with chamber of commerce and BAC to get temperature.
7. Tree Ordinance Revision – We will get draft revised ordinance from DPW in July/August.
8. NJ Food Waste Assembly Bill #2371 – Discussion about anaerobic digester. The trigger for the new food waste legislation is 50 tons yearly, which is feasible between all schools, supermarkets, diners, and small businesses. The anaerobic digester could save a lot of money for the township if it could be competitive with those costs for businesses. Everyone needs to review the bill.

New Business

1. NJ Composting Council – Pilot Program - EC was contacted by someone regarding a pilot program. Could be a good complement with food waste action.
2. 2021 NJ DOT Transit Village Grant Opportunity - Bloomfield is applying for a grant towards sidewalk improvements along Lackawanna Place, plus improved lighting and ADA ramps. EC made motion and formally approved endorsing this grant request, on the basis that improvements to the train station and surrounding area will encourage and incorporate more foot traffic and public transportation use.

Adjourned 9:34pm