

BLOOMFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

March 17, 2021

I. Call to Order - 7:35pm

II. Roll Call - Oliver Young, Cailyn Bruno, Flint Kinkade, Greg Babula, Nick Joanow, Rich Moseson, Susan Marano, Sofie Sawyer, Cristian Delcroix. Guests: John Evangelista, Genevieve Reoch, Mollie Smith. Meet and greet with members and guests. Oliver gives background and introduction to environmental commission.

III. Approval of Minutes – February 2021 minutes approved.

IV. Old Business

- a) Outreach / Bloomfield Buzz Articles / Twp. Website – Possible Subcommittee - In addition to Buzz articles and Facebook page, we can populate the Environmental Commission section on the township website. Rich and Greg will be members of the subcommittee, one other commissioner is welcome to join. This month's Buzz topic: natural mosquito control.
- b) ERI Subcommittee – RFP for the ERI has been posted on the website. Will need to send contact info for interested consultants to the township administrator to make sure it is distributed.
- c) Sustainable Jersey Recertification Subcommittee - On track. Mollie will follow up with members of the subcommittee this week.
- d) Essex-Hudson Greenway Project – 04/26 Webinar - Webinar presented by Essex Hub. Oliver recommends that we attend this instead of having a separate presentation to the BEC. Oliver will email the information to sign up for the webinar.
- e) Stormwater Management Ordinance Update - No update. Ordinance was supposed to be updated by March 2, so it is past due. Discussed the recent ANJEC and NJ Futures emails regarding the new stormwater rules. Oliver will forward the emails to the commission. The BEC would like to advocate for an ordinance that includes more green infrastructure than the bare minimum.

V. New Business

- A. New Member Introduction - Tabled until April meeting.
- B. New Jersey Comfort Partners Program - Opportunity came through contacts at the Essex Hub. The Comfort Partners Program is involved with NJ Clean Energy, which provides free reviews for residents of household energy use (rentals are eligible). They assess things like heating and cooling. Essex Hub received a

small grant through the state to provide this service. Commissioners should let Oliver know if they are interested in joining an informational call.

- C. Schools Update - 03/16 meeting; Recycling / BOE Meeting on 04/12 - Meeting focused on plans for Earth Day. The activities will be hybrid (virtual/at home/in person). They are working on the Sustainable Schools submission. There is an upcoming town-wide cleanup on 4/24 and they discussed getting student groups involved. Discussed a proposal for planting gardens at each of the schools. Genevieve will give an update to the SJ subcommittee on the status of the school's recertification efforts.
- D. 2020 Annual Report to Town Council - Genevieve prepared the report and it was reviewed by Cailyn and Flint. The finalized report will get sent to Nick and will distribute to the Council on the electronic agenda. Oliver will send it to Nick before April 5.
- E. Essex County Environmental Commission Meeting / Essex Hub - Cailyn gave an update on what was discussed at the March Essex County EC. A presentation on recycling was given and they discussed the Greenway project, an upcoming commissioner survey, and green development checklist. Essex Hub is a platform for the municipal green teams to share information. Oliver proposes that the commission should get involved in the Essex Hub since the green team is on hiatus.
- F. Brownfields Update - Cailyn gave an update on the Brownfields inventory and meeting with the Brownfields Assistance Center. The BAC gave feedback on the draft inventory and suggestions for additional databases to check. Cailyn will send draft inventory and map to interested commissioners.
- G. Future Ordinance Revisions (property maintenance, trees, etc.) - ANJEC has a list of standard ordinances to incorporate or improve. Commissioners should take some time to consider what ordinances need updating. This will stay on the agenda and should be a focus in 2021. Oliver will start to formulate a list that will get prioritized.
- H. Electric Vehicles – USA Today Article - GM will form joint ventures to develop better batteries for EVs. There is a future need for charging stations for these EVs once they start to get pushed out. BEC should consider recommendations for locations on municipal properties for charging stations (parking lots/decks, along Bloomfield Ave, etc.), residential and commercial. Should also consider recommendations to BOE for switching from diesel to electric buses. EV charging stations can be put in development ordinances.
- I. Waste Management / Garbage Dilemma – Bloomberg Article - Landfills have been closing in recent years due to oversaturation. The closest option for Bloomfield is to send waste to the incinerator in Newark. Consider “pay as you go” trash program, or educational program on tipping fees, possible rebates on

taxes. Discussed strategies for producing less waste, which include composting and working with manufacturers/retailers on packaging. There was a discussion about litter around town and a question posed - do recycling truck crews pick up dropped waste? EC should contact DPW to ask

- J. Public Comment – Tree Mulch / Repurposing Tree Waste - Tabled until next meeting.
- K. Open Space Stewardship Grant (ANJEC) - BEC should consider collaborations with Brookdale Conservancy, Friends of Watsessing Park, etc. for shovel ready projects or phases in need of funding. BEC can keep tabs on ANJEC and Sustainable Jersey grant cycles. Greg can coordinate with the Brookdale Conservancy, and Rich with Friends of Watsessing Park. BEC should consider a Project Planning subcommittee that facilitates communication with other groups (Recycling, Open Space Trust, and Beautification Committees) to collaborate on high visibility projects.

VI. Next Meeting: April 21, 2021 – 7:30pm (virtual)

VII. Adjournment - 9:15 pm