Montclair Environmental Commission Minutes – Mar 3, 2021

Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84270255919?pwd=V0UvL1ZFekZnU3NSS2RPQjBaVnczdz09
Meeting ID: 842 7025 5919
Passcode: MEC_2020

Type of Meeting: Monthly
Facilitator: Ben Rich
Note Taker: Nicol Sobczyk
Voting Commissioners: Ben Rich (Co-Chair), Suzanne Aptman (Co-Chair), Nicol Sobczyk (Secretary), Lyle Landon, Imke Oster, Janine Salvador (Webmaster), Keith Brodock (Planning Liaison)

Alternates: Mac Carbonnell, Bill Martens (proposed)
Associates: Bill Martens
Montclair Liaison - Gray Russell, Montclair Sustainability Officer
Township Council Liaison: Sean Spiller, Mayor
Guests: Peter Holm; Dave Korfhage, Ben Bright, LeeAnn Carlson, Alison Tribus, Sally Ellyson

Call the meeting to order: Time 7:32
This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

7:30 - Welcome & Introductions Ben

7:35 - Approval February 2021 Minutes - Nicol; approved.

7:36 - Presentations
1. Montclair Climate Action (MCA) - David Korfhage.
   a. Site: https://www.montclairclimateaction.org/ // info@montclairclimateaction.org
   b. Mission: systemic change; encourage residents to take action; general approach at the moment.
   c. Interests: energy, transport, waste, compost
   d. Action items so far:
      i. Composting project -- Alison Tribus to connect with LeeAnn Carlson, Ben Bright, Nicol Sobczyk
      ii. “Opt Up” - increase renewable energy % per household (above the automatic increase)
   e. Action benchmarks:
      i. Net zero by 2050
      ii. Reduce emissions by 50% by 2030

2. League of Women Voters created individual climate action opportunities. Lyle Landon to share at next meeting.

7:50 - Reports/Updates
1. Budgets (Suzanne, Ben); Requests submitted with Town Council support (see February 2021 minutes for details on submissions).
2. This month’s committee updates - (important developments; input/support needed; action requested -decisions, vote):
   a. Communication: Website and process for blog posts
      i. Website: https://www.mtcenv.org/
      ii. MEC Contact: mtcenv@gmail.com
      iii. Instagram: @MontclairEnvironmentalCom **need to link website and Instagram; Nicol & Janine to connect on this!
      iv. Nicol to reconnect with town council members re: ward meetings;
      v. Communications Committee to evaluate events opportunities to encourage more diverse participation, understand needs of community more broadly
b. Energy: Leaf blower ord; SEA Energy Aggregation on social media
   i. Town enforcement TBC.
   ii. Electric equipment suggestions being made to the township.
   iii. Re: energy opt up:
       1. Powerful messages: when you do opt up, share!
       2. Deadline = March 7 2021
       3. Posting weekdays @ 10am is effective!
       4. Gray Russell to share OPT UP message from Verona.

c. Recycling and Waste Reduction: recycling collection response
   i. Today: collection at municipal yard had both SB & NB lines
   ii. Have expanded to an additional day of collection - Wednesday, Fridays, Saturdays
   iii. Expected that within 2 weeks, will restart

d. Trees and Natural Resources: Stormwater ordinance; tree process
   i. Mac & Suzanne to propose ordinance changes
   ii. Tree replacement process was addressed
   iii. Request formally submitted to prioritize neighborhoods where trees are less prevalent -- focus for environmental justice
       1. Lyle to share map to environmental justice opportunities
       2. Breakdown includes minority communities, living below poverty line

3. Planning Board (Keith)
   a. Orange Road parking structure.
   b. Parking deck on Glenridge Avenue is township managed; not presented to the Planning Board.

4. Sustainability Office (Gray)
   a. Joint project between Montclair, Maplewood, Glen Ridge, South Orange, Verona -- selecting pilot households to run energy efficiency programs.
   b. Micro grid feasibility study done to create finalized engineering design plan around renewable energy grid. $675k grant received to incentivize public safety/security program. Carbon reduction system for infrastructure. Would support renewable energy and battery storage in a power outage for Mountainside hospital, NJ transit Bay St deck, etc.

5. Upcoming events:
   a. Sean Spiller holding virtual town hall meeting March 4
   b. Peter Yacobellis holding town hall event March 17th

Calendar
March: ANJEC Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions Training. Email info@anjec.org to register:
   -Creating/Updating a Municipal ERI/NRI: Sat. Mar. 6th at 9:30am and Tues. Mar. 9th at 7pm
   -Land Use Planning: The Municipal Master Plan, Municipal Ordinances and more: Sat. Mar. 13th at 9:30am and Tues. Mar. 16th at 7pm
   -Site Plan Review: Sat. Mar. 20th at 9:30am and Tues. Mar. 23rd at 7pm

Adjournment 8:33 pm   Next Meeting: April 7, 2021   Note Taker  Nicol Sobczyk