

## **Montclair Environmental Commission [Minutes](#) – Mar 3, 2021**

### **Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84270255919?pwd=V0UvL1ZFekZnU3NSS2RPOjBaVnczd09>

**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)

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,

**Alternates:** Mac Carbonnell, Bill

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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**