Montclair Environmental Commission Minutes FINAL & APPROVED – April 7, 2021

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

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

Alternates: Mac Carbonnell, Bill Martens (proposed)
Associates: Bill Martens
Montclair Liaison - Gray Russell, Montclair Sustainability Officer
Township Council Liaison: Sean Spiller (Mayor), Lori Price Abrams, Peter Yacobellis
Guests: Ben Bright, LeAnn Carlson, Peter Holm, Lynn Hendee, Alison Tribus

Call the meeting to order: Time 7:30
This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

7:30 - Welcome & Introductions – Suzanne

7:35 - Approval March 2021 Minutes – Approved.

7:40 - Reports/Updates (input, action needed/completed)
1. Recycling & Waste Reduction:
   a. Composting presentation (Benjamin Bright, LeeAnn Carlson, Nicol Sobczyk):
      i. Participation target: first come, first served; 25 people per ward; could look at population by ward and/or renters by ward
      ii. Promotion opportunity: backyard compost bins through Gray, Java’s curbside, Java’s private at-home pickup
      iii. Education: suggestion for Rutgers extension, e.g. what do you look out for when composting at home; Gray = master composter
      iv. Cost
         1. Assumptions provided are maximum estimates
         2. Savings will only be incurred only at scale
         3. For 6-month pilot: cost to citizen would be max $50 (1x fee)
         4. Outside of a pilot, cost to citizen = $229 over 6-month period
      v. NJ laws
         1. Requiring larger establishments first
         2. No infrastructure available to support entire municipalities
      vi. Milburn management of project: combination of volunteer and town management
vii. Council feedback:
   1. P. Yacobellis: site drop off not a concern (good options both public & private); education and engagement for pilot not a concern; at least 100 households “opted up” in the green energy plan.
   2. L. Price Abrams: will Java’s be able to support the program? A: Java’s aiming to scale in NJ. Proposal for crowd sourcing for customers who cannot fund out of pocket.
   3. S. Spiller: benefit to residents to take part in pilot vs private approach. Pilot program would make this more equitable.

viii. Post-pilot scale not confirmed. This would be a phase 2 study.

ix. Yard waste composting collected in Montclair is composted offsite.

x. MEC forwarded a motion to formally support and forward to council liaisons for further consideration:
   1. 1st: Suzanne
   2. 2nd: Imke
   3. All voted yes.

xi. Concerns:
   1. 2021 Montclair budget shortfall $7M.
   2. Cost coverage for those who cannot fund.
   3. Importance of communicating all composting options to residents

xii. NEXT STEPS: socializing to the council will be deferred to council liaisons. Nicol, Ben, LeeAnn to action.

b. Styrofoam recycling (Lyle) Steve Wood of community services wants to work with MEC for an 8-12 week pilot with drop off at the Recycling Center on Saturdays from 9-1pm. Determining if CS can use existing truck with a tarp and confirming cost from FoamPack in Springfield (modeled on Glen Ridge program)

c. Printer ink cartridge recycling (Lyle)
   i. Drop-off locations TBC, but brainstormed as follows:
      1. 1st: Bradford Elementary School (approval from superintendent pending) & Java Love
      2. 2nd: Watchung Booksellers
      3. 3rd: Library
      4. 4th: Nishuane School
   ii. Other suggestions:
      1. Schools?
   iii. Remanufacturing of the collected ink cartridges taking place in Brooklyn

2. Trees & Natural Resources (Suzanne, Imke, Mac):
   a. Arbor Day seedling giveaway -- 9:30-12 @ Nishuane Park; education guide will be provided that lists top 10-15 trees that we would like to see more people planting.
   b. Watchung Garden -- Mac cleaned up; additional planting space outside the triangle OK’d; ~1 foot perimeter provided around triangle planter. Date for next planting TBA.

3. Sunset Ave, Verona redevelopment (Suzanne, Lyle, Ben, Keith) -- Montclair & township may be able to weigh in during site-plan review phase.

4. Sustainability Office (Gray) --
a. Community choice aggregation starts this month.

b. $679k grant to develop micro grid engineering design grid.

c. Sustainability position being posted; position will be replaced.

5. Blog concepts:
   a. Recycling history – Gray Russell
   b. Compost education content – Gray Russell

Calendar
April 19-23 - Montclair Earth Week (MSU) >> sustainable transportation presentation by Ben Rich April 19; link to virtual event registration. Gray presenting too
April 22, 11 - 2pm, Virtual Earth Day Celebration & Fair, ANJEC - This was not addressed? Is MEC participating......they could preview the Arbor Day plan and show props?
April 17 - 25, Earth Day celebration, NEEC
April 24 & 25, Montclair Parks Appreciation weekend, PRCA-AC
April 30 - May 2, Van Vleck Plant sale
May 1, 9:30 - 12pm, MEC Arbor Day, free tree seedlings, Nishuane Park
May 1 & 2, Rutgers Native Plant Sale, Presby Iris Gardens

Adjournment 9:20 pm    Next Meeting: May 5, 2021    Note Taker Nicol Sobczyk