

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

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84270255919?pwd=V0UvL1ZFekZnU3NSS2RPQjBaVnczd09>

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