

## **Montclair Environmental Commission Agenda – October 6, 2021**

### **Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84270255919?pwd=V0UvL1ZFekZnU3NSS2RPQjBaVnczdz09>

**Meeting ID: 842 7025 5919**

**Passcode: MEC\_2021**

**Type of Meeting:** Monthly

**Facilitator:** Ben Rich

**Note Taker:** Ben Rich

**Voting Commissioners:** Suzanne Aptman  
(Co-Chair), Ben Rich (Co-Chair), Lyle  
Landon, Imke Oster, Keith Brodock  
(planning board liaison), Janine Salvador  
(Webmaster)

**Alternates:** Bill Martens, Mac Carbonell

**Excused:** Nicol Sobczyk (Secretary)

**Township Council Liaison:** Sean Spiller,  
Mayor

### **Call the meeting to order: Time \_\_\_\_\_**

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was published on the Montclair Township website home page, Montclair Local, Montclair Environmental Commission website & Facebook page

### **7:30 - Call the meeting to order, Welcome & Introductions - Ben**

### **7:35 - Approval September 2021 Minutes - Ben**

- Approved by a vote of 6-Yay, 0-Nay, 1-Abstain

### **7:40 - Reports/Updates** (input/decision/action needed or action completed)

#### 1. Energy & Transportation:

- [Quiet Communities petition to EPA \(Full Letter\)](#)
  - Asking EPA to enforce noise ordinance from 1970's
  - Do we agree to sign it as a commission? Approved by a vote of 7-Yay, 0-Nay, 0-Abstain
- Energy efficiency programs
  - Sustainable Essex Alliance (SEA), set up a fund to be spent to further energy efficiency programs
  - Agreed to pilot an energy efficiency pilot program in the 5 towns participating.
  - Contractor will manage the whole program. 64 homes throughout the 5 towns.
  - Free energy audits, then free consultation w/ contractor to discuss energy efficiency upgrades
  - Montclair will be allotted 24 homes out of the 64 total homes.
  - NJ Clean Energy Program will do energy audits b/w \$99-\$299 for anyone.
  - Comfort Partners - NJDEP program for seniors and low income eligible. Suzanne is proposing to Town. Mayor in support of having his name on the letter.

#### 2. Green Dev/Site Plan Review

- New plan review submitted (10 Elm St)
  - Submitted MEC Review, no planning board meeting on this application yet.

- Two South Willow has all electric appliances in residences (no natural gas in residences, but building is heated via natural gas) and other sustainable features.

### 3. Recycling & Waste

- Styrofoam recycling update ([Styrofoam Recycling Resumes](#))
  - Notification to Township was sent via 411 service.
  - Town residents are bringing their own clear plastic bags, Township does not plan to supply bags.
  - Lyle will contact Steve Wood (DCS) to verify that Township is managing the whole process
- Straws Upon Request Only Law goes into effect Nov 4.
  - MEC recycling committee plans to remind BIDs about the state law going into effect.
  - MEC can do a press release
  - Some Township restaurants are not aware that the Township will pick up recycling from commercial businesses (the Township does not pick up commercial refuse)
  - Who should contact restaurants about recycling?
  - Upper Montclair Business Association and all business districts/associations should communicate with their members about recycling.
  - Restaurants need to contact Craig Brandon at DCS to start Township pickup of recycling.
  - Suzanne suggested an annual message to businesses reminding them of their responsibility to recycle (by law)

### 4. Trees & Natural Resources:

- Replanting trees near Lorraine well
  - After upgrades, some trees were cut down around Lorraine well. Neighbors requested screening.
  - Arbor Vitae was planted, but initially shade trees weren't planned. Township Water Department now open to plant 10-12 shade trees with large native shade trees from our Township list.
  - We can make this area a showcase with a sign for passers-by to read info about shade trees.
- Watchung garden fall planting
  - Add some plants to the Watchung garden to increase density and remove plants that aren't doing well.
  - Add compost to encourage better growth.

### Calendar:

- ANJEC Environmental Congress Oct 19 - Oct 22, 2021
  - If members want to attend, email Co-Chairs
- Styrofoam collection Oct 9 and Oct 23, 9am to 12 pm

**Adjournment 8:48 pm      Next Meeting: November 3, 2021    Note Taker: Ben Rich**