

**Minutes, Meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission  
October 19, 2016**

2016	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV
	20	17	16	20	18	15	20	21	19	16
M. Herzberg, Chair	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
D. Rasmussen, Liaison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
A. Dohl	M	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	M
J. Schaffer	A	M	M	P	A	A	P	A	A	
B. Weeks	A	P	P	M	M	P	P	P	P	
L. Nowak, Planning Bd. Liaison	-	-	-	-	A	A	P	A	P	
A. Dutemple	P	P	P	P	P	M	A	P	M	
J. Kelly	A	P	P	P	A	P	M	M	A	

Key: P=Present, A=Absent, R=Resigned; M=Minutes Assigned/Taken.

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Minutes of September 2016 meeting**

Approved.

**Correspondence**

There was nothing pertinent to Metuchen in the three most recent editions of the DEP bulletin received (dated 9/21, 10/5, and 10/19).

**Grant Updates**

The roof of Borough Hall will be assessed for the installation of solar panels (taking into account square footage, solar orientation, etc.) in lieu of the Senior Center, as discussed last month. The assessment of the roof is for an upcoming application for a grant to the Program for Energy Initiatives that focuses on renewable/alternative energy projects. Applications are due October 28<sup>th</sup>. Maximum grant is \$30,000. Other potential projects for this grant could include energy efficient upgrades to municipal buildings in the borough and the creation of a micro-grid with charging stations and an emergency natural gas generator.

At last count, 493 free composters have been given out to borough residents from the DEP composting grant. Approximately 10% of the households in Metuchen have now participated in this program.

Approximately 40 of these composters were ordered at the Environmental Commission booth during the Metuchen Country Fair in October.

Metuchen will apply to extend its grant for Trail Planning that was awarded last year by the National Parks Service. The grant involved a dedicated Trail Planner to work with the borough on land and water trails.

### **Dismal Swamp**

There is a Dismal Swamp clean up scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 22 to try to extend the water and land trails constructed by volunteers along the headwaters of the Bound Brook.

### **Gulton Site**

To date, there has been no response to comments submitted to the D.E.P. by the borough addressing the clean-up of the stream channel behind the Gulton site.

Also, a new L.S.R.P. has been hired for Gulton site by the property owner.

### **Community Outreach**

There will be a dedication ceremony for the newly opened dog park at the end of Whitman Avenue near the Edison/Metuchen border on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. Representative Frank Pallone is scheduled to attend.

### **Sustainable Jersey**

Metuchen has once again been awarded Bronze Status by Sustainable Jersey. The borough received 275 points for its various environmental and community projects.

The Sustainable Jersey luncheon is Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 2 in Atlantic City. Tickets are \$35.00.

Campbell Elementary School and Edgar Middle School were both also awarded bronze certification from Sustainable Jersey for Schools. This year, the only districts in Middlesex county to have been awarded certification are Metuchen and Highland Park.

Campbell and Edgar schools will be recognized for their certification at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Planning Board**

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Board will review two ordinances regarding fair housing obligations in the borough.

### **Pilgrim Pipeline update:**

Food and Water Watch has been put in touch with the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society and with Borough Administrator, Jen Maier, for a resources survey of the area.

### **New business**

The new Metuchen Downtown Alliance executive director, Issac Kremer, has been in talks with the Borough Administrator about printing reusable bags with the MDA logo to be made available around Earth Day as part of the Environmental Commission's spring project. This campaign will also overlap with a Sustainable Jersey goal. The commission will look for bags that are not only reusable, but also made of recycled material.

There was a discussion about the possibility of zoning for rooftop businesses in the downtown area for cafes and restaurants. This may be something that the MDA can look into.

### **Greenway Update**

A celebration for the Greenway's inclusion on the American Planning Association's Great Places in NJ list took place on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at Trailhead Park.

The commission will reach out to Morristown's Grow It Green non-profit regarding a possible community garden at Trailhead park.

### **Next meeting**

Wednesday, November 16 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Alyson Dutemple