

**Minutes, Meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission
June 15, 2016**

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

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

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

Minutes of May 2016 meeting

The minutes were approved with corrections.

Guests

The Commission was joined by guest Nirmal Prakesh from Boy Scout Troop 74 in Metuchen. Nirmal is a junior at the Middlesex Academy for Math and Science in Edison and a potential Eagle Scout. He was there to discuss potential projects to help him earn his rank. Dorothy Rasmussen offered some ideas for projects that would be mutually beneficial to the town and to Nirmal's goal of achieving his rank, particularly projects that are eligible for the Sustainable Jersey certification program. The commissioners and Nirmal discussed putting in a raised-bed community garden in Kentnor Park, where an area has already been delineated. The project would involve installing fencing, locks, raised beds, animal proofing measures, and plants. Nirmal will contact other towns with gardens and the Rutgers Agricultural Extension program to research building this community garden. It was noted that a raised-bed addition to this park will also work in conjunction with the 2016 Borough-wide initiative to improve parks around town. Nirmal will discuss the raised-bed project with his Scout Master and Troop 74 and make plans to visit the park. He will return to the commission at a future date with a proposal and a sketch if he decides to pursue this as his Eagle project.

Correspondence

- June 15 issue of the DEP Bulletin included three freshwater wetlands-related permit issues, one a presence/absence related to the District at Metuchen, one a re-issuance for the District at Metuchen, and one an extension filed by Metuchen Plaza Associates, LLC.
- At the request of the Borough Administrator, Angela Dohl reviewed environmental incident reports (such as leaking underground storage tanks) filed in the Borough from 2015-present.

Community Outreach

On June 25th the Environmental Commission, possibly in conjunction with Pesticide Free Metuchen, will have a table at the Metuchen Farmer's Market to promote free composters the Borough is offering to residents after a grant from the DEP. Four types of composters are scheduled to be on display, as well as demonstration stations for each composter.

Over 300 composters have already been ordered by residents through this program. They are in the process of being delivered to residences by the Department of Public Works.

Announcements

The new parking deck will open on June 18 and is offering free parking for attendees of the Farmer's Market and June Bug on that date.

In addition to parking spots, the new deck will offer a total of 120 bike parking spots, as well as several electronic charging stations for electric cars.

Sustainable Jersey Update

A brownfield inventory is currently underway by Angela Dohl. This involves making an updated list of all brownfield sites within the Borough, as well as creating a schedule to keep the list updated and a procedure for updating the list when necessary.

The application for Sustainable Jersey re-opens in July for 2016-2017 Sustainable Jersey status. The commissioners discussed missing actions and documentation from last year's application to re-submit in July.

Dorothy assigned documentation to be submitted in the following areas: Walking School Bus, Safe Routes to School, Anti-Idling Campaign, and Backyard Grass Clipping Composting Campaign.

Future Projects

There was a discussion of whether there were any current ordinances regarding the distribution of fliers and circulars to homes. It was prompted by an observation that many of these fliers left on driveways become litter throughout the Borough. A more efficient way to cut down on litter, especially in storm drains, and the efforts of other towns in NJ that have enacted such measures were also discussed.

There was also a discussion of two public places in the Borough that did not currently have recycling receptacles: Tommy's Pond and the Metuchen Pool. Efforts will be made to put recycling bins in both locations ASAP.

Trails Grant

No news.

Greenway Update

Discussion of future outreach to representatives, including Congressman Pallone, regarding Greenway programs. It was noted that there were increasing numbers of users enjoying the Greenway since weather has gotten warmer.

A bike fix station is forthcoming on the Greenway to allow users to fix minor bike issues while travelling the Greenway.

Other Updates

A sidewalk extension on New Durham Road near Trailhead Park will extend all the way to Michael Drive.

Bridge Street will be repaved soon. Residents of Bridge Street will be noticed regarding dates for the project.

Next meeting

Wednesday, July 20 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Alyson Dutemple