

WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION—ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

1. Call to Order—Roll Call:

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM.
- b. Present—Karen Pennett, Jim and Andy Stout, Doug Speeney, Andy Baldassarre, Council President Wendy Robinson
- c. Absent—Rachel Funcheon, Joan Tak

2. Approval of Minutes—8/30/2021 Zoom Meeting—The minutes were approved.

3. Reports:

- a. Tree Report:
Tree Permit inspections are now being done with Borough Engineer, Jim Hutzelmann. Shari, the Arborist, was temporarily doing Tree Permit inspections until the new Engineer was hired. The application of the tree ordinance is being questioned by the Borough Council. Karen requested a volunteer as backup for the tree inspections should she not be able to do it. The Borough Engineer could do inspections alone, if necessary.
 - General Report: 133 trees have approval to be removed with 41 trees to be replaced.
 - EC Site Inspections: 11 properties were inspected.
- b. Planning Board:
 - New application for lot line adjustment between neighbors
 - The resolution for the Learning Experience was read and passed. Government approvals and permits still pending.
- c. Recycling—Plastic bags; New Legacy Books
 - Plastic Bags—Shop-Rite continues to accept and recycle plastic bags.
 - New Legacy Books—No update
- d. Green Team—Green Fair, SJ, Farmers' Market
 - Green Fair—Well attended, 90% drive through, small area for giveaways such as reusable bags (depleted supply) and wildflower seed packets. Doug observed and photographed the Styrofoam collection process. The white and clean Styrofoam was placed in clear plastic bags and taken to Foam Pack by the Warren DPW on Monday.
 - Sustainable Jersey—Everything was resubmitted, and town is awaiting approval for Bronze certification.
 - Farmers' Market—More vendors with labor issues. Sign on street needs to be removed the following day.

4. Unfinished Business:

- a. Harvest Festival--Cancelled and replaced with pumpkin painting.
- b. Plastic Film Curbside Recycling—Rachel trying to get speaker for the October meeting and will invite the Council and others once date is confirmed.
- c. Free Cycling at Curb—proposal to be written by Doug. It is a suggested spring recycling project.
- d. Reusable Bags—All in process per Rachel—same graphics not available so looking for different supplier

5. New Business:

- a. Anti-Idling Ordinance was put into effect—Had to be redone by putting on the books again—Police alerted.
- b. 2022 Budget—must be completed by the end of October—Members should think about our expenses and create lists to be sent to Rachel. Will be further discussed at the October meeting.

6. Special Announcements, Correspondence, Other:

--Free ANJEC video available, costs for setup over \$1,000.00. Karen will check with high school and contact Environmental Club.

--Considerations of Ida and the future impacts of storms in our town—need to think about more ways to incorporate green infrastructure and be part of solution to help Borough deal with these situations. Rain gardens, Environmental Checklist, tree cover to slow down runoff into streams, educate public about the importance of trees were other ideas.

--"Thinking of You" flowers to be sent to Joan.

7. Public Comment: None

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM with the next meeting scheduled for October 25, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Stout (Recording Secretary) and Jim Stout (Assistant to the Secretary)

September 2021 Tree Report

133 trees to be removed

41 trees to be replaced

11 properties

171 Knollwood 16 Trees, Ash no replacements
Engineer went out without Environmental Rep

45 Snoden revisited trees previously not marked
Permit has 25 trees, 32 trees marked, replace 29
Pool to be put in. Paper work from owner states replacing original 25. 4 additional trees to be replaced.

90 Stanie Glen revisited
7 Trees, replace 7
Pool to be put in
Replace 7:
2@ 2.5
5@4.5

116 Anderson 3 Trees, dead/dying, no replacements
2 Cherry
1 Ash

35 Winter 6 Trees Ashes, no replacements

378 Valley 13 Trees, dead/dying hazardous, no replacements
3 Ash
2 Maple 1 leaning 1 close to house
1 Tree close to house
1 Oak over drive way
4 Cherry
1 leaning
1 Cedar
Was another Maple, decided not to take down

417 Valley 5 Trees, replace 3

40 Nottingham 24 Trees, no replacements
21 Ashes
1 Oak, dead
1 Maple
1 unknown split

106 Oakwood West 7 Trees all dead/dying, no replacements
Interesting one tree covered in Spotted Lantern Flies

2 Ridge 19 trees 2 replacements @ 2.5

25 Sunbright 8 Trees ash dead/dying, no replacements