

WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION—ZOOM MEETING MINUTES (FINAL)

MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021

1. Call to Order—Roll Call:

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.
- b. Present—Rachel Funcheon, Karen Pennett, Jim and Andy Stout, Doug Speeney, Andy Baldassarre, Council President Wendy Robinson
- c. Absent—Joan Tak

2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Zoom meeting of 4/26/2021 were approved.

3. Reports:

- a. May 2021 Tree Report
 - General Report--22 trees have approval to be removed with 12 replacement trees
 - EC Site Inspections; Violations—One inspection on tree replacement--Glen Eagles Drive, four properties viewed
 - Ash Trees—The DEP's NJ Urban and Community Forestry Program (NJUCF) offers help with EAB management through grant opportunities to municipalities but has rigorous prerequisites to qualify for the program.
- b. Planning Board
 - Learning Experience application ongoing with Weldon's main objection being inappropriateness of the daycare establishment on selected site.
 - Bonnie Burn Proposal—Special meeting for Weds. postponed due to insufficient meeting notice.
- c. Recycling—Styrofoam; Legacy Books
 - Styrofoam—Borough Council discussed recommendations from EC. Council members were basically supportive but had questions/concerns about frequency of collection and use of DPW. Referred back to EC for specific plan. Farmers' Market suggested as possibility with plan proposal to be presented to the BC for the 6/17/2021 meeting. Members of EC to visit first Farmers' Market and revise proposed Styrofoam plan as needed, payment for employee out of EC budget—need truck, employee, and bags.
 - Legacy Books—Library does not take donated books but Friends of the Library does and is interested in working with the EC—money must go to charity or non-profit such as Friends or PBA—site needed for large bin—police station parking lot suggested—Sustainable Jersey points available.
- d. Green Team—Green Fair, Sustainable Jersey, Farmers' Market--moving towards Sustainable Jersey certification. Charlie Neiss working with Bill Hance. First Farmers' market next Tuesday.

4. Unfinished Business:

- a. Operation Pride—Seedling Giveaway—successful event covered by **Echoes-Sentinel**, 300 trees distributed, Rachel reached out to Forestry Service, Pin Oaks and White Pines leftover and available for free, Rachel obtained 100 and gave away 80 so far—total of almost 400 seedlings given away this month.
- b. Tree Planting—EC and T & B to plant trees in fall on east side of Best Lake—will invite Shari Spero, town arborist, to walk area with members and make suggestions.
- c. Recommendations sent to Mayor and Council
 - That the Borough establish a Styrofoam Recycling Program
 - That the Borough adopt the Sustainable Jersey Green Building Checklist into the Land Development Ordinance so that all applicants before the Planning Board would be required to complete the checklist. (Compliance with the Checklist would not be mandatory.) The Green Team also sent M & C a letter supporting this recommendation.
- d. Ridewise—Green Spot Mobility manages charging station locations and works with municipalities as well as the private sector.
- e. NJ Clean Energy Program Reminder—appliance recycling—appliance must be working, get money

back. ARCA Recycling: 888-484-8313.

f. Bamboo in Storm Sewer—still in Valley View drain and observed in another drain and a right-of-way—Are there plans for removal?—Daryl EK will follow up with DPW.

g. Update on the Council acting on a resolution opposing the Gibbstown Logistics Terminal? Rachel will contact NJ Food and Water Watch to find out if there is a deadline on this.

5. New Business:

a. Green Acres Program Grant—deadline of 6/30/2021—Doug will send information to Council President Robinson for consideration for the proposed Camp Endeavor community garden project.

b. Trex Bench Plaque—Signs by Tomorrow and D & B as suggested companies, cost of approximately \$100.00+. Rachel will send inscription suggestion to members for editing.

c. Ideas for New Actions—educational programs, outdoor movie, speaker, more suggestions welcome.

6. Public Comment: None

7. Special Announcements, Correspondence: None

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM with the next meeting scheduled for 6/28/2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Stout (Recording Secretary) and Jim Stout (Assistant to the Secretary)

May 2021 Tree Report

22 trees to be removed

Ash 4

Oak 9

Maple 1

Not identified 8

12 trees to be replaced, 3 Deer Run replacing more trees than required

Includes applications inspected under 5 trees

325 Stirling: 3 trees Oaks, 18",24" and 36" All close to house. Addition to house

40 Gentian: 18 trees for building addition, not marked will reschedule inspection

48 Pine: Total 10

Permit 8 trees:

2 Ash 17" & 19" dead/diseased

1 Red Oak 110" dead/diseased

1 White Oak 13" dead/diseased

1 Maple 14" change to play area

2 White Oak 19" & 15" home addition

1 Red Oak 22"

Added 1 Ash and 1 Oak diseased

Replace 1 Dog Wood

3 Deer Run total 9

Permit: 8 trees 8 – 30 "

Added 1 Ash

Replace with 11: 3 Redbuds, 3 Dogwoods, 5 Red Maples

Inspection

15 Glen Eagle trees replaced.