

**Environmental Commission &
Sustainable Montgomery Subcommittee Minutes
June 4, 2024**

Environmental Commission Attendance:

(X) Mary Reece, Member	(X) Ratna Revankar, Alt. 1
(X) Susann Brown, Member	(—) Jim Bushong , Alt. 2
(X) Frank Derby, Member	() Brian Zinn, Advisor
(—) Michelle Jacob , Member	() Sahana Karthik, YLC
(X) Greg Kaganowicz, Member (left 7:00pm)	() Maahi Sethi, YLC
(X) Kathy Lynch, Member (left 7:00pm)	(X) Devra Keenan, TC liaison
(X) Sarah Roberts, Member	

Additional Sustainable Montgomery Subcommittee Advisors

() Thuy Anh Le
(X) Lauren Wasilauski

Guests: None

Meeting called to order at 6:07 PM

Lenape Land Acknowledgement

To show our support for the Lenape Land, we discussed obtaining a boulder (with art on a plaque by a Lenape artist) and a tree to be installed in a prominent location on the Montgomery Township building property.

Mary will reach out to Tyrese Gould Jacinto for recommendations on a symbol, art or language that should be included.

Lauren will contact the Landmarks Commission and Inclusion & Equity Committee on potential partnership on this initiative, and ask if they have funds available to contribute.

- **Approval of Minutes** – April 16, 2024
 - Motion: Sarah Roberts Second: Susann Brown
 - All in favor; None opposed
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Skip the Stuff Ordinance**
 - ANJEC model ordinance in partnership with Beyond Plastics NJ
 - The Environmental Commission supports the Skip the Stuff Ordinance, which focuses on items included in a takeout bag (e.g. plastic utensils, condiment packets).
 - Kathy and Devra to follow up with Cory Wingerter, current Secretary of the Montgomery Business Association (Past President of Montgomery Business Association).

**Environmental Commission &
Sustainable Montgomery Subcommittee Minutes
June 4, 2024**

- **Montgomery Friends of Open Space Farmers Market Sponsorship**
 - 2024: Support \$500 as we have past years
 - Motion: Mary Reece Second: Frank Derby
 - All in favor; None opposed

 - Sarah Roberts will attend the Farmers Market June 8 to answer questions about invasive plants.

- **New Municipal Center – Green Initiatives**
 - Solar
 - EV charging stations
 - Rain garden
 - Daniel Leopold – Eagle project
 - Daniel has expressed continued interest in doing his Eagle project at the rain garden on the west side of the Municipal Building. No proposal has been received yet, and no timeline given.
 - Maintenance of lawn & field areas
 - Detention basins
 - Small detention basin with planted irises near Township building has been mowed
 - Maintaining existing trees & shrubs; planting new trees
 - There was discussion of removing the nonnative evergreen shrubs (Chinese Juniper). Devra and Sarah suggested removal only in the 2 beds that Sarah is maintaining at the front of the building.
 - Microhabitat for pollinators – Jim Bushong
 - The Municipal Center Green Initiative Advisory Committee reviewed several locations for Jim’s project and favored the location near the westerly rain garden (where Daniel Leopold is planning his Eagle project).
 - River Friendly certification
 - Lenape Land Acknowledgement
 - Inclusive playground
 - \$750,000 grant from NJDEP Green Acres

- **Sustainable Jersey**
 - No reviewer feedback received yet from second round submission (due May 10)
 - July 31: third/final submission due
 - Mary asked Lauren to update the membership since the application will be due prior to the next EC meeting in August.

- **River Friendly**
 - No update

**Environmental Commission &
Sustainable Montgomery Subcommittee Minutes
June 4, 2024**

- **Composting**
 - No update – move to old/new business
- **Grants**
 - 2023 Urban & Community Forestry grant
 - Funding awarded to conduct tree inventory/evaluation (street & park trees)
 - 2022 DEP Stormwater grant
 - Applied to retrofit 2 basins: Catbriar Court & Red Fox Court
 - Selected as grant recipient, awaiting more details from DEP
 - 2024 Sustainable Jersey grant
 - Requested funding for Watershed Inventory Report (part of new MS4 requirements) – awarded \$20,000
 - 2024 Community Based Deer Management Grant
 - Granted full funding request of \$5,000 to offset butchering costs and \$14,874 to fund a new population density survey
- **Microhabitat for pollinators – Jim Bushong**
 - See “New Municipal Center” above
- **Site Plan Reviews**
 - Stellar Land Assets (BA-06-23, block 35001 lot 15, 316 Wall Street)
 - Reuse existing site with shared driveway
 - Across from the airport
 - Good to reuse property, add sidewalk
 - Asked for more trees, donation to tree bank
 - Sarah read a recent NY Times article about environmentally friendly pools and would like to include that with her checklist of suggested practices when reviewing an application.
 - Consider wetland beside pool to clean and recycle water
 - New York Times had a recent article on this topic [Natural Pools, Also Known as Recreational Ponds, Trade Chlorine for Plants - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/03/us/local-natural-pools.html)
 - The membership was in favor of recommending more environmentally friendly pool design.
- **Correspondence**
 - Notice of application for flood hazard area verification for block 8 lot 42.02 (318 Hopewell-Amwell Road, Hopewell Twp), dated 3/15/2024
 - Notice of application for flood hazard area verification for block 10001 lot 21 (384 Grandview Road), dated 3/22/2024

**Environmental Commission &
Sustainable Montgomery Subcommittee Minutes
June 4, 2024**

- Notice of application for letter of interpretation for block 24001 lot 38 (Provinceline Road), dated 5/24/2024
- **Old / New Business**
 - Enhanced communication opportunities were discussed, such as the e-bulletin, and perhaps posting events on the Township website.
 - Trash hauler – hydraulic fluid
 - No update
 - Deer management
 - Permit applications due 6/10 for upcoming 2024-2025 season
 - Film series collaboration with Franklin EC
 - “Kiss the Ground”
 - “American River”
 - Host in Montgomery
- **Upcoming Events**
 - November 19-21: League of Municipalities Annual Conference in Atlantic City (Mary would like members to consider attending once we confirm which day our SJ cert will be presented)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM

Upcoming meetings: August 6 (virtual), September 17

Minutes submitted by Susann Brown 6/4/2024