

South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee

Official Minutes - January 10, 2024

1. Call to Order

Notice having been filed with the S.P. Observer and TAP into SP, Chairwoman Debra Leporino called the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:38 pm.

Present: Debra Leporino (chairwoman) Tom Walsh, John Ferguson, Genevieve Helbo, Melanie Mott (council liaison) and Rich Houghton (planning board liaison).

Others: Kristina Nieradka

Absent: Lisa Roseo (secretary)

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the November 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed and all were in favor of approval.

There was no meeting in December.

3. Invitation for Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

4. Budget -

- No details were provided yet.
- Debra asked to meet with Melanie and Kristina to talk about the budget details.

5. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Council Liaison - Ms. M. Mott

- Melanie Mott explained the change from 'Commission' to 'Committee'. Upon Dr. Tempel's retirement, the Borough will not be replacing her with another Environmental Specialist. Certain responsibilities will be re-delegated and will no longer involve the SPEAC. T & M Associates will be taking over 'Land Use' & 'Site Plans' e.g. – landscape projects etc. We can still make recommendations. Paul Rizzo will be revising our By-laws. When they are available, we will need to present them at a meeting, review/revise, and then vote on them at the following meeting.

B. Planning Board Liaison - Mr. R. Houghton / Mr. B. Bythell

- Rich said the Planning Board has not met since November and has not had their reorganization meeting yet.

C. ERI - Ms. D. Leporino

- Debra asked Melanie if we still need to be notified when Boro parcels of land are sold in order to update the ROSI. Melanie will ask Glenn Cullen if the committee will be responsible or will T&M Associates.

D. Clean Communities - Ms. K. Nieradka / Ms. D. Leporino

- Kristina said she is in the midst of organizing the Clean Communities responsibilities. The 2024 Tonnage Grant will be her largest task. She will be working hard to capture as many reports as possible. She is updating the list of Borough companies and their contacts.
- Adopt-a-Spot – Debra reported that for the 3rd quarter of 2023, we have not received the renewal from Cub Scout Pack 207 yet. For the 4th quarter of 2023, we have not heard back from the Bourbeau Family. Debra will call again. For the 1st quarter of 2024, we have five renewals set to expire as of 3/31.

- Debra said she is in the process of putting together a mission statement for the SPCCA. She will present the draft to the SPEAC at the next meeting.
- Debra said she wants the SPCCA to have a presence at our town's public events in order to continue to promote the Adopt-a-Spot program and any other of our Clean Communities' programs.
- Debra would like to expand the 'Glitter Award' that has been presented to Boro businesses and include an incentive to residents. She will try and meet with Chief Papa in the future to discuss ideas
- Kristina said she has attended a few seminars & webinars related to Clean Communities programs. She will share the information she gathers.
- Debra would also like to revisit the SPCCA presentation that was to take place this past November. We will need to come up with a topic and the committee will have to approve it first.

E. Land Use - TBD

F. Forestry - TBD

- Melanie will ask Glenn if T&M Associates or who else will be monitoring site plans and the Harris Steel Tree fund payments. Should we combine 'Forestry' with 'Land Use'? The committee wants to be kept informed by whoever will be managing the town's trees so we can monitor and comment.

G. Highland Avenue Woods / Public Education - TBD

- Tom read the information he received from Dorothy: Dr. DeVito repaired sections of the deer fence. Dorothy has a meeting set up with Kevin McCann, Grant School Assistant Principal, to start formulating hands-on environmental education at HAW. Tom reiterated that he would ask Dorothy if she would be willing to keep us updated on the goings-on with HAW.

H. Historical Sites Preservation - TBD

- Tom will inquire about getting updates from Dorothy.

I. Pollution - Mr. J. Ferguson

- John said the EPA continues to work on standards for the 'forever chemicals'. There are businesses that do not want to discontinue using the chemicals for their operations and people who do not want the chemicals around forever.
- John spoke about a new process developed by Veolia Environmental Services, which can withdraw food particles from used containers from restaurants. The process separates the food particles from the plastic, which gets returned back into the soil. The plastic gets melted down and sent elsewhere to be reused. John said the company is doing great work in providing operational expertise for clean water around the world.
- EPRA (emergency planning community response act) – The county will be having their official annual drill in October. John explained any town that has a business that uses any of the designated 333 most toxic chemicals, must have an emergency response plan in place. That response plan that ensures public safety must be tested.

J. Green Team - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom said the GT will be meeting on 2/1 to go over action items in order to maintain our Bronze Certification. The first-round deadline is 2/25. Reaching the required points will be more difficult without Alice on staff who was involved in many of the things that would qualify for points. Kristina said she will be in charge of monitoring/capturing/record keeping for the recycling center and recycling

tonnage from Boro businesses. Kristina will be attending a DEP class on the tonnage grant. She will share the links to all the Clean Community webinars with Debra.

K. Public Information & Technology - TBD

- Debra asked if anyone was interested in taking over this sub-committee to post/maintain all the information we want to share. Kristina said Alice made her the administrator of our Facebook page. Tom mentioned the Sustainable NJ link on the Boro website under our EAC page, needs to be updated.

L. Stormwater Advisory Committee - Mr. J. Ferguson

- John reported the 911 response system , PSAP (public safety answering points), will be changing from Verizon to Lumen Technologies. It will be an upgraded system that will be GIS dependent, not hard-wired.

M. Chairwoman's Report - Ms. D. Leporino

- Debra told members not to hesitate to offer her constructive criticism. She is looking forward to working as a team.

6. Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

7. Old Business

8. New Business

- Tom asked Melanie if Mayor Anesh held the 'State of the Town' address. Melanie said he has not yet; we have until March.
- Genevieve asked if it would benefit our committee to advertise for new members. Melanie said we can do that. The ordinance states the committee is between 3 – 7 members; a quorum is 3. Currently we have four voting members: Tom, Debra, John and Genevieve. We can solicit new applicants.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Roseo
Environmental Advisory Committee Secretary

Acronyms

ANJEC	-Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions
BOA	-Board of Adjustment
CBA	-Clean Business Association
CCAB	-Clean Communities Advisory Board
DOT	-Department of Transportation
DPW	-Department of Public Works
EIS	-Environmental Impact Study
EPA	-Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	-Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOW	-Friends of the Woods
GBFCP	-Green Brook Flood Control Project
HAW	-Highland Avenue Woods
KCS	-Known Contaminated Sites
LEEDS	-Lead in Energy and Environmental Design
LOI	-Letter of Interpretation
MCDSWM	-Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management
MCOEM	-Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management
NJDEP	-New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NOV	-Notice of Violation
OTOSP	-Oak Tree Open Space Parcel
PRP'S	-Potentially Responsible Parties
ROSI	-Recreation and Open Space Inventory
ROW	-Right of Way
SPBA	-South Plainfield Business Association
SPCCA	-South Plainfield Clean Communities Association
SPEAC	-South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee
USACE	-United States Army Corp of Engineers

South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee

Official Minutes - March 13, 2024

1. Call to Order

Notice having been filed with the S.P. Observer and TAP into SP, Chairwoman Debra Leporino called the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:32 pm.

Present: Debra Leporino (chairwoman) Tom Walsh, John Ferguson, Genevieve Helbo, Kristina Nieradka, Melanie Mott (council liaison) and Rich Houghton (planning board liaison).

Others: Lisa Roseo (secretary)

Absent:

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the January 10, 2024 reorganization and regular meeting were reviewed and all were in favor of approval.

3. Invitation for Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

4. Budget -

- Melanie reported she spoke with Glenn Cullen who said, most likely, our budget amount will remain the same as the prior year. The budget as a whole is being worked on currently. Tom asked if the Harris Steel Trust Fund and Signs Trust Fund will be maintained. Glenn had said he would get those reports and forward them to Kristina. Debra asked if our committee could see the budget numbers on a spreadsheet when they come out. Melanie replied yes.

5. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Council Liaison - Ms. M. Mott

- Melanie Mott said Mayor Anesh wrote a letter in support of a solar project as requested by the GT @910 Oak Tree Rd./Grand Slam. They need to submit an application to the BPU. Tom asked Melanie to forward the information to Bob Longo for Sustainable NJ.
- Debra asked if the GT is now its own committee. Melanie said the Mayor & Council are working to make the GT separate via ordinance as they appoint those members.
- The County awarded us a \$673,750 grant for improvements to Pitt Street Park & Little League Baseball Fields. The grant is through Middlesex County Open Space/Recreation & Farmland Trust.

B. Planning Board Liaison - Mr. R. Houghton / Mr. B. Bythell

- Rich said the Planning Board met last night. They began the process for the Harris Steel redevelopment plan. Approximately 80 acres. It will go before the Boro Council to accept or deny. Phase 1 – New Brunswick/New Market Avenues.
- Because T&M now reviews the site plans, Rich asked committee members if they still want him to attend as a liaison for the Planning Board. He would be glad to continue. Members said they welcome Rich and Brian's continued support.

C. ERI - Ms. D. Leporino

- The committee unanimously decided to eliminate this subcommittee as T & M Associates are handling.

D. Clean Communities - Ms. K. Nieradka / Ms. D. Leporino

- Kristina spoke about the planning so far for the Spring Volunteer Litter Cleanup. Kristina handed out copies of the ad she created for The Observer and Taplnto. Kristina spoke about the 'Recycle Coach' app, which is free, that we haven't been using to its fullest potential. There is so much information and capabilities available beyond recycling information. We will be using it to have volunteers sign up for the cleanup. The app will maintain that database for future use. Kristina added many significant dates on the app i.e. – leaf pickup, compactor, recycling pickups etc. We could use this as a community calendar as discussed at the last meeting. Kristina is having the QR code for the app printed as stickers to display at our Recycling Center. Discussed trying to find contact information for past cleanup volunteers. Kristina has not been able to find Alice's file with that information. We do have some people's info on past 'Hold Harmless' forms and cleanup reports. Members also discussed specifics of the cleanup/pickup picnic. Went over cleanup supplies, volunteers, cleanup spots, pre-registration etc. Tom said he can get the prize wheel from Dorothy if we want. Kristina suggested for something new, we can ask the High School Environmental students to make up questions for a different game. We can also get questions from the State's Clean Communities Council. Kristina will reach out to Kathleen Benton. Talked about prize giveaways. Kristina said Glenn Cullen gave her permission to make purchases. She will price a few 'Cora' balls and wildflower seeds packets. Kristina said she and Paul Zawacki plan to visit local nurseries/stores to ask for donations of plants as prize giveaways. Lisa will purchase soda, plates/napkins for the picnic. She will also be creating the 'Certificates of Appreciation' for the volunteers. Kristina will be speaking with Pete Smith about securing discounted pizzas and sandwiches. On the main day of the cleanup, 4/27, Kristina, Paul Zawacki, Debra, Tom, Genevieve, Melanie and Lisa should be on hand. Melanie will ask about posting the cleanup on a digital board.
- Tom suggested promoting the 'Recycle Coach' app by putting an article in The Observer, Taplnto, Boro website etc.
- Kristina reported she applied for a \$10,000 grant to make improvements to the Recycling Center. Also applied for a \$12,000 grant for a better hut for the Recycling Center crew. The Boro has increased hours of operation at the center/yard waste which residents are happy about.
- Kristina attended the Sustainable NJ convention in Atlantic City and acquired a lot of good information. Currently, a big concern is 'microplastics' which are in our clothes. When we wash our clothes, the plastics rinse out and enter into our water systems, thus we end up eating and drinking them. In the future, washing machines will be equipped with filters. Currently you can purchase a 'Cora Ball', which is supposed to prevent some microfiber pollution. *Coraball.com* Food waste was also a big topic. Schools and nursing homes are the top offenders. In the future we can discuss working with the schools on 'share-tables'. We can also talk about a community food compost site. Tom said we can probably find information through Sustainable NJ.
- Kristina spoke about our Boro, which invested in a 'roll-off' truck some time ago. We have containers that we now transport directly to the transfer station. We do have the ability to own our own containers at the Recycling Center. The Boro could potentially save approximately \$45,000/month for curbside pickup and cost of pulling boxes.
- Kristina reported she has reached out to South Plainfield businesses for their annual Recycling Tonnage Report. Our Fire Department has a list of all Boro businesses. These tonnage numbers get submitted to the State. She is also updating all of the business's contact information she gets and will enter it into a

separate file. The businesses have begun to file their reports. Kristina asked if new businesses are informed of the tonnage reporting requirements. If not, can that be arranged?

E. Land Use -

- Committee members unanimously decided to eliminate this subcommittee as T & M Associates are handling.

F. Forestry - TBD

- Discussed what actions/information was handled previously by SPEC. Tree sapling giveaway, Big Trees of SP contest, OTOSP maintenance. John said he feels it is important to keep up with current information on the state of tree species within our State and Boro so we can be equipped to maintain our trees. Is there someone who can provide that? Melanie said our committee can always discuss concerns about our trees/policies and work on public outreach. Kristina said Paul Zawacki, Recycling Center Operations Manager, is well versed on trees. Before Alice left, she had conversations with Paul about him being available to lend a guiding hand. Debra suggested maybe Paul would like to join our committee. Kristina will ask Paul.

G. Highland Avenue Woods / Public Education - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom said he spoke with Dorothy. Dorothy will submit a monthly report on the activities at HAW and of the Historical Society via Tom for our committee to discuss.
- Dorothy plans to write an article about the history of our town cleanup week which began in 1982. It will be posted on the HAW/Historical Sites Facebook pages a week before the cleanup.

H. Historical Sites Preservation - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom read Dorothy's report: Colonial Oaks site (New Brunswick Ave.) – The archaeological dig that began in 2021 is completed. It revealed indigenous people's artifacts. Some of the findings included by-product flakes from stone tool production from approximately 6,000 plus years ago. There will be a presentation at our public library tentatively scheduled for September 2024.

I. Pollution - Mr. J. Ferguson

- John said there has been serious discussion about the plastic bag ban. They are finding fewer plastic bags in waterways, however, we have increased our carbon output in order to manufacture the reusable bags.
- The EPA is currently deciding how many of the 327 plus PFAS's (forever chemicals) cannot be used. Companies have to do their own studies to determine if it is safe at the determined levels/limits set forth.
- Our Delaware River is reported to be the 14th most polluted river in the country.
- EPCRA – John said his unit performed an emergency response simulation with a company in Woodbridge – Dana Transport – 36 people from the surrounding area participated.

J. Green Team - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom reported the GT met last month. Bob Longo, Chairperson, submitted the first round of action items to Sustainable NJ. The next round is 5/10. Found a new action item that Tom is working on with Wendell Born: emergency community planning. These are things that our Emergency Response Team is already doing and are worth points. The next GT meeting is on 3/21.

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K. Public Information & Technology - Ms. K. Nieradka

- Kristina has been posting. She would like to work on capturing more followers in the near future.

L. Stormwater Advisory Committee - Mr. J. Ferguson

- John attended two ANJEC webinars. 'Retrofitting for greener stormwater management' and 'Tie-in stormwater management with MS4 permits. The main purpose is to get the public to truly understand what stormwater management is about. Residents are an essential element for cleaner water.
- Middlesex County received a \$1.2 million grant to help with mitigation projects in the southern portion of our county.
- Received a grant to upgrade our 911 system as discussed in January.
- GBFCP – John said apparently the flood control commission did not write up paperwork correctly for the USACE to use the federal funds set aside. They are still working to get the one hold out homeowner that will not sell his property. There are three plans for the Upper Basin. Once all the public comments are reviewed, the USACE will decide which plan. Then back to how much funding will be needed.

M. Chairwoman's Report - Ms. D. Leporino

- Debra said our committee has a mailbox in the Boro mailroom if anyone needs to drop off papers.
- The Mayor & Council would like our committee to do more community outreach. We can discuss this further after the Spring Litter Cleanup.

6. Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Roseo
Environmental Advisory Committee Secretary

Acronyms

ANJEC	-Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions
CBA	-Clean Business Association
CCAB	-Clean Communities Advisory Board
DOT	-Department of Transportation
DPW	-Department of Public Works
EIS	-Environmental Impact Study
EPA	-Environmental Protection Agency
EPCRA	-Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
FEMA	-Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOW	-Friends of the Woods
GBFCP	-Green Brook Flood Control Project
HAW	-Highland Avenue Woods
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LOI	-Letter of Interpretation
MCDSWM	-Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management
MCOEM	-Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management
NJDEP	-New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NOV	-Notice of Violation
OTOSP	-Oak Tree Open Space Parcel
PRP'S	-Potentially Responsible Parties
ROSI	-Recreation and Open Space Inventory
ROW	-Right of Way
SPBA	-South Plainfield Business Association
SPCCA	-South Plainfield Clean Communities Association
SPEAC	-South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee
USACE	-United States Army Corp of Engineers

South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee

Official Minutes - April 10, 2024

1. Call to Order

Notice having been filed with the S.P. Observer and TAP into SP, Chairwoman Debra Leporino called the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:34 pm.

Present: Debra Leporino (chairwoman) John Ferguson, Genevieve Helbo, Kristina Nieradka, and Brian Bythell (planning board liaison).

Others: Lisa Roseo (secretary)

Absent: Tom Walsh and Melanie Mott

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the March 13, 2024 regular meeting were reviewed and all were in favor of approval.

3. Invitation for Public Comment

Paul Zawacki, DPW/ Recycling Center Operations Mgr., introduced himself. He has some Forestry experience that he can offer.

John McConville, retired SP Police Sgt., introduced himself. He is interested in the committee.

Debra welcomed both of them and told them to reach out to Amy Antonides if they would like to become members of the EAC; an application is required. Members gave Paul & John a brief outline of our former commission's responsibilities and what our new committee is currently. This newly formed committee is working on its purpose/direction for the future.

4. Budget - TBD

- Debra said she has not heard anything from Glenn Cullen as the Mayor & Council have not approved the final budget yet.

5. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Council Liaison - Ms. M. Mott

- Debra read Melanie Mott's emailed report: Melanie was thinking we should open up litter cleanup all year for those who are unable to attend townwide litter cleanup events. There are many people who are non-committal to adopt-a-spot and/or unable to attend planned events and this may help with that, particularly those who need community service hours. Or even businesses in town who would like community recognition. Melanie said she does not foresee this being an issue with DPW picking up the garbage when jobs are complete, especially because it will not be very often. If EAC agrees, Melanie will confirm with Len Miller and then we can plan from there.
- Kristina responded by saying we do have employees on litter patrol. Kristina and Paul work with Luke Melik, who is great. Kristina is in favor of doing this year-round but wants to make sure the hype of the big Spring Cleanup remains. We would need to work out a manageable system to perform regularly scheduled cleanups. Debra mentioned that our group has discussed offering an incentive to residents similar to the 'Glitter Award' that is given to businesses. Debra said we will revisit this proposal after the Spring Cleanup. Debra would also like to see the 'Adopt-a-Spot' program grow.

B. Planning Board Liaison - Mr. R. Houghton / Mr. B. Bythell

- Brian said the Planning Board meeting was canceled last night.

C. Clean Communities - Ms. K. Nieradka / Ms. D. Leporino

- Members discussed the upcoming cleanup. Kristina said she advertised the cleanup extensively. She has received a fair number of responses. Kristina created a spreadsheet that contains cleanup locations (as Dr. Tempel named). She handed out copies and asked which spots are kid-friendly, clarifications of said locations and what Adopt-a-Spots are still available. Kristina ordered, with Glen Cullen's approval, 144 grabbers @\$1,008 + \$130 shipping. We need to make sure volunteers return them after the cleanup. Debra and Genevieve will document how many and to who are given grabbers and safety vests. Debra contacted Hometown Heros who will provide trays of sandwiches. Debra suggested having small bags of chips too. Lisa said she purchased the cans of soda, paper plates and napkins. Pete Smith has secured the pizza from Ciccios. Genevieve said she usually gets the ice for the coolers.
- Debra mentioned Gina D'Urso, DPW, is creating a display board to recognize cleanup donors – i.e. Ciccios, Hometown Heros. Kristina said she and Paul got plant donations from Home Depot and Town & Country for prize giveaways at the pickup picnic. Kristina met with Kathleen Benton and Pari Patel (HS Environmental Science Club President). The students are very enthusiastic. They will be creating the environmental game for the picnic. Kristina also showed the students the up-cycled sewn creations she made using used blue jeans. She worked with the students for 3 hours last Saturday creating prize giveaways. That experience gave Kristina an idea we may want to consider, having a vendor table alongside the HS Environmental Club at the Labor Day picnic. The HS students need a funding source to rejuvenate their greenhouse and other endeavors. Kristina spoke to them about putting together a parade float; they were very excited. EAC members exchanged ideas.
- Adopt-a-Spot – Debra reported we have not received back any renewals from the last quarter of 2023; she assumes those folks do not want or cannot renew. Kristina suggested she and Debra get together soon to discuss the details of the program. The 1st quarter of 2024 had five renewal applications sent out and only three were returned: Tom Stillman-Fireman's Memorial/Austin Family-Plainfield & Maple Avenue area/Pender Family-HAW. The 2nd quarter of 2024 has eight renewals that Debra will be sending out soon.

D. Forestry - TBD

- Debra said our committee needs a chairperson for the Forestry subcommittee. Kristina said Paul and John are in attendance with interest in the forestry aspect. EAC members offered information/examples of what this subcommittee did in the past. Briefly discussed tying in tree plantings as a possible recognition to residents 'Glitter Award' program. We will discuss further when we talk about re-introducing the business 'Glitter Award.'

E. Highland Avenue Woods / Public Education - Mr. T. Walsh

- Lisa read the email Tom received from Dorothy: Looking forward to a beautiful spring in the woods with migrants arriving earlier than usual due to the odd fluctuation in warming and storm patterns. Dorothy encourages people to take a stroll, enjoy the scenery, the emergent wildflowers and the peace and quiet of our precious Nature Reserve.
- Dorothy plans to post photos from the very first Community Cleanup from 1982 with some commentary on the Historical Society Facebook page and HAW page.
- The Fishing Derby will make a return to Spring Lake Park after a hiatus of 20 years as per the Chief of Police who contacted Dorothy for a little history of it.

F. Historical Sites Preservation - Mr. T. Walsh

- Lisa read the email Tom received from Dorothy: The lead archaeologist at the Colonial Oaks site (New Brunswick Ave.) will give a PowerPoint presentation to the Historical Society on Saturday, September 21 @ the SP Public Library. The public will be invited. Samples from the dig will likely be on display. The time of the presentation is TBD.

G. Pollution - Mr. J. Ferguson

- John reported that the issue with the PFAS's (forever chemicals) will remain important. The EPA is making it a liability for all the drinking water purveyors/suppliers. There will be a limit on 6 of the PFAS's: 4 pp trillion which is equal to one dropper of water in six Olympic-size pools.
- John mentioned that South Orange implemented a new 'dual' separation of recyclables. They found that by having specific recyclables picked up on different days, not single-stream, money is saved by all parties. The company saves by not having to separate.
- Lithium batteries – John was informed that when these batteries are burning, they make hydrochloric acid. The acid will destroy/dissolve the calcium in bones. Kristina expressed further concern about accepting and storing the lithium batteries at the Recycling Center. John said to make sure the ends of the batteries are duct-taped to prevent contact.

H. Green Team - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom emailed his report: The GT met on 3/21 to discuss the upcoming Sustainable NJ (SJ) Action Items. Sustainable NJ got back to us with their notes for the action items to be completed we had to submit in February. When the action items were submitted by Bob Longo in February, SJ locks the website so no further action items can be worked on until they review. We are now permitted to work on the action items. The GT is starting to complete the action items based on SJ's review notes. Our next action item submittal date is 5/10.
- The next GT meeting is on 4/25 @7 pm.

I. Public Information & Technology - Ms. K. Nieradka

- Kristina has been posting on our Facebook page.

J. Stormwater Advisory Committee - Mr. J. Ferguson

- Resilient NJ – This program is designed to reduce flood damage in coastal and riverine towns. 7 of Middlesex Counties municipalities are taking part. John handed out a copy of Sayreville's framework for identifying/including 'Green Infrastructure' into any work being done within the town.
- GBFCP – John attended the last meeting. The USACE is finally deciding what to do with the Upper Basin. Unfortunately, it sounds like they want only to do non-structural mediation to get people out of harm's way. e.g.- home elevations, home buyouts. That plan will not help South Plainfield in the long run. John believes we/GBFCC will argue that at least some levees and storm walls are needed.

K. Chairwoman's Report - Ms. D. Leporino

- Debra thanked Paul and John for attending our meeting.

6. Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

- Debra questioned whether we could omit this from our agenda as it was Dr. Tempel who reported. Decided to discuss replacing it with another title.

7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Lisa Roseo
 Environmental Advisory Committee Secretary

Acronyms

ANJEC	-Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions
CBA	-Clean Business Association
CCAB	-Clean Communities Advisory Board
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EIS	-Environmental Impact Study
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South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee

Official Minutes - May 8, 2024

1. Call to Order

Notice having been filed with the S.P. Observer and TAP into SP, Chairwoman Debra Leporino called the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:30 pm.

Present: Debra Leporino (chairwoman), Tom Walsh, John Ferguson, Genevieve Helbo, Kristina Nieradka, Melanie Mott (council liaison), and Rich Houghton (planning board liaison).

Others: Lisa Roseo (secretary)

Absent:

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the April 10, 2024 regular meeting were reviewed and all were in favor of approval. Tom mentioned his *excused absence* was not noted in April's minutes as it usually is.

Debra said she revised the agenda.

John McConville said he submitted his application to be appointed as a member of this committee.

3. Invitation for Public Comment

Paul Zawacki and John McConville were in attendance.

4. Budget - TBD

- We are still waiting to hear from Glenn Cullen.

5. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Chairwoman's Report - Ms. D. Leporino

- Debra reminded everyone that our committee is made up of both Boro employees and volunteers. There is not much difference between the two – Boro employees get paid and cannot vote, volunteers do not get paid but have a vote. There is a lot of talent on this committee. Debra is excited about the committee and would like to see everyone working as a team. All feedback and suggestions should be brought back to the committee. If anyone wants to add an item to the agenda, please email Debra and Lisa with any item to be added to the agenda by the last day of the month before the next meeting. Debra asked Melanie if there is to be no separate meetings outside the committee meeting. Melanie said it is ok to have separate discussions. Members agreed. Rich said it shouldn't matter because the committee does not make policies. Also agreed that the meeting agenda/minutes should be sent out to members two weeks prior to the next meeting.

B. Council Liaison - Ms. M. Mott

- Melanie reported the Green Team needs to renew. Previously the GT was listed as a 'committee' which was incorrect because committees are not created via resolution. Therefore, an ordinance was created which is in its second reading. The EAC does establish the Green Team which shall consist of the

following members: The Mayor or designee; Boro Administrator; Council Liaison; School Board Member appointed by the BOE; up to two EAC members to be appointed by the Chair. The ordinance has not been passed yet, but the current GT roster is covered under that language.

C. Planning Board Liaison - Mr. R. Houghton / Mr. B. Bythell

- Rich said there is nothing new to report as there has not been a meeting.

D. Clean Communities - Ms. K. Nieradka / Ms. D. Leporino

- Spring Cleanup – Kristina reported we had about 300 volunteers. The DPW picked up the bags which weighed a total of 2 tons.
- Adopt-a-Spot - Debra offered the last list she received from Alice. Melanie said we need the current list/contracts. Debra apologized for leaving the info at home. Debra is supposed to be meeting with Anne Daly Friday to go over the program. Debra will bring the 1st quarter agreements for review , signatures and full execution.

E. Forestry - TBD

- There was no report.

F. Highland Avenue Woods - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom was not able to reach out to Dorothy Miele this month.

G. Historical Sites Preservation - Mr. T. Walsh

- There was no report.

H. Pollution - Mr. J. Ferguson

- EPA on PFAS - John reported there was a final determination on the seven PFAS's they want to add to protect our drinking water. It was officially passed by the EPA on 4/14. However, it is not official until it appears on the Federal Registry. Once it is published, it takes 60 days to take effect. It will have a major impact on water companies to ensure the numbers are down.
- As discussed last month, talks will continue on overall pollution, especially from plastic water bottles. Segregated recycling pickups are successful in South Orange where companies are seeing more profit by not having to sort at the facility – cleaner products too. Paul suggested however there will be more truck trips.

I. Green Team - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom said the GT met last month to review action items for Sustainable NJ Bronze Certification. The team is making progress. Tom uploaded the emergency management info which was time consuming. Action items are reviewed by Sustainable NJ and their comments are given back in July with any recommendations if further info is needed. The next GT meeting is on 5/30.
- We hosted another 'National Drug Take-Back' on 4/27. Received 40 lbs. from 22 vehicles.
- Tom will be attending the next Peter J. Barnes Dismal Swamp Preservation meeting. Paul said he noticed they are creating more walking trails. He asked if there are other projects that can be done by Eagle Scouts. Tom said he will inquire.
- Tom thanked Kristina for the "great job" she did organizing her first Spring Volunteer Litter Cleanup. Members concurred.

J. Public Information & Technology - Ms. K. Nieradka

- There was nothing new to report.

K. Stormwater Advisory Committee - Mr. J. Ferguson

- John attended a NJDEP information session on 'sea-level rise'. John is having trouble with some of the flood predictions being publicized. Of course, we do have to worry about the effects of a warming planet, which historically is cyclical. The upcoming hurricane season will be in La Nina which has less wind shear. The Gulf & Atlantic will be warmer than last year as well as air temps. The NJDEP is planning for more rainstorms.
- John noticed that public perception in town seems to indicate that people think SP floods constantly. John feels it is time to sit down and seriously discuss stormwater management with a plan in mind. With that, we need to keep in mind that storms are more frequent/heavier, the water table is higher, more building = more impervious surface and our stormwater pipes are not designed to accommodate that much stormwater. Towns cannot afford the legal battle to stop developments etc. Rich said we should consider rezoning as a good option. John said ideally, we should have a county-wide 'stormwater group' that everyone would pay into. This would allow more funds to be available for individual priority projects. However, not every town is in favor of that.
- Tom reported that he noticed the tarp that was covering the salt pile at the Oak Park Commons was once again off. He emailed Kristina and Rich Wolff. Rich indicated he can't do anything but have them recover it. Tom noted there is a nearby storm sewer where the rain takes the salt to. This has been a continuous issue with them. Kristina reached out to the County; Kim Hu said she would send an inspector. Kristina will follow up. Tom asked if we have an ordinance or standards for storing salt. John McConville looked it up and referenced #403-3 in Article I. John F. mentioned that we are tied into two watersheds.

L. Education - Mr. J. Ferguson

- John explained that this subcommittee's goal is to try and get more people in the community involved and informed to help educate others and hopefully promote/accomplish our undertakings.
- John will be asking Tom Flynn to suggest 3 or 4 topics he might like to speak about. The Boro Council will decide which of the topics to go with. The presentation will be set up for the Fall.

M. Outreach - Mrs. G. Helbo / Ms. D. Leporino

- Debra explained that since Melanie brought to our attention that the Mayor & Council would like to see our committee do more public outreach, this committee was created.
- Genevieve had a meeting with the OLC/organizers for the St. Anthony Festival to ask if our committee could set up a table. Debra said we can promote the Adopt-a-Spot program and display handouts. We could share the table with the Green Team. Debra will email committee members with more info. Do we have any volunteers?
- At our next meeting we can discuss participating at Christmas in July and National Night Out.

6. Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Next Meeting - Wed., June 12, 2024 in the Boro Hall Conference Room

10. Comments for the Good of the Order

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned @ 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Roseo
Environmental Advisory Committee Secretary

Acronyms

ANJEC	-Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions
CBA	-Clean Business Association
CCAB	-Clean Communities Advisory Board
DOT	-Department of Transportation
DPW	-Department of Public Works
EIS	-Environmental Impact Study
EPA	-Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	-Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOW	-Friends of the Woods
GBFCP	-Green Brook Flood Control Project
HAW	-Highland Avenue Woods
KCS	-Known Contaminated Sites
LOI	-Letter of Interpretation
MCDSWM	-Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management
MCOEM	-Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management
NJDEP	-New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NOV	-Notice of Violation
OTOSP	-Oak Tree Open Space Parcel
PRP'S	-Potentially Responsible Parties
ROSI	-Recreation and Open Space Inventory
ROW	-Right of Way
SPBA	-South Plainfield Business Association
SPCCA	-South Plainfield Clean Communities Association
SPEAC	-South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee
USACE	-United States Army Corp of Engineers

South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee

Official Minutes - June 12, 2024

1. Call to Order

Notice having been filed with the S.P. Observer and TAP into SP, Chairwoman Debra Leporino called the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:30 pm.

Present: Debra Leporino (chairwoman), Tom Walsh, John Ferguson, Genevieve Helbo, Kristina Nieradka, and Melanie Mott (council liaison)

Others: Lisa Roseo (secretary)

Absent: council liaison

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the May 8, 2024 regular meeting were reviewed and the following changes were made: Under Chairwoman's Report, add *to email Debra and Lisa by the last day of the month before the next meeting with any item to be added to the agenda.*

Under Clean Communities: Debra to meet with Anne Daly – add that *Debra will bring the 1st quarter agreements for review, signature and full execution of the Adopt-a-Spots.*

Under Education: *The Boro Council will decide which of the three presentation options to go with.*

After the changes/additions were made, all were in favor of approval.

3. Invitation for Public Comment

John McConville was in attendance.

4. Budget - TBD

- Melanie reported the EAC's final approved budget is \$3,000.

5. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Chairwoman's Report - Ms. D. Leporino

- Debra stated that at tonight's meeting, she would like to focus a bit on public outreach and hopes to set up a tentative calendar for the rest of the year. She thanked Genevieve for putting the Feast of St. Anthony on our radar. Hopefully we can get together as a committee and man a table. Going forward it would show more of a team effort to the community if we had two people at a table for the events we participate in.
- Debra said she invited Bob Longo to tonight's meeting, but he was unable to attend. The reason for the invite was to talk about including the GT at our public events/functions to make residents more aware. Debra will be attending the 6/27 Green Team meeting.

- Debra suggested our committee have a bin on hand to contain all the materials we want to display at our table when we attend any function. That would make it easy for anyone who will be staffing the table.

B. Council Liaison – Ms. M. Mott

- Other than the budget, there was nothing new to report.

C. Planning Board Liaison – Mr. R. Houghton / Mr. B. Bythell

- There was no report.

D. Clean Communities – Ms. K. Nieradka / Ms. D. Leporino

- Christmas in July – Kristina applied to participate. It will take place on 7/21 from 4 – 8pm Set-up is at 2:30. The High School students would like to participate.
- Kristina reported the HS Environmental Science students are interested in creating a float for the Labor Day Parade, so Kristina signed them up. More details to follow.
- Kristina is getting resident inquiries about tree replacement plantings. A resident on E. Crescent Pkwy. would like the two large Oak trees that were in front of the medical building on Park Avenue replaced. Glenn Cullen gave approval. Members discussed how to accomplish – e.g. who would do the planting and maintenance. If we hire a landscaper, those details would be part of the specs. Tom said if the DPW does the planting, they will have to maintain them. Kristina will speak with Jim Patti, DPW. Of course, larger planting projects would have to go out to bid.
- John McConville will be added as a chairperson to the Forestry sub-committee.
- Kristina asked Tom about the status of information for an Eagle Scout Project. Tom said he will report under HAW.
- Kristina read figures from a status report received from Facebook about our page. All our numbers have increased. Our 'Recycle Coach' rating, compared to other similar towns, is way above average. Tom suggested the information/stats may be used for Sustainable NJ action items/points.
- Kristina reported receiving notice of an LOI application to the NJDEP. It was bounced around a bit; Len Miller told Kristina to bring it to our committee. Lisa said those notifications used to be reported by Alice under 'correspondence'. Our committee no longer handles.
- Kristina was contacted by Middlesex County Court Services. They are asking that we re-enroll into the Community Services Program to help people complete their community service hours. She and Paul are working to assist people with that. We can use those folks at the Recycling Center.
- SPEAC and the GT can discuss ways to deal with the large number of reusable bags people have on hand. We would need to set up drop-off boxes and donate them to area food banks.
- Adopt-a-Spot – Kristina handed out copies of a spreadsheet she created with all the adopt-a-spot locations. The file contains info such as the location description, name of group that adopted and their information, contract dates etc. Debra explained that when a contract was executed, Alice would scan the hard copy to the SPCCA website. Discussed the process further. Kristina said we need to ensure volunteers are submitting their cleanup reports so she can include in the State Tonnage Report. Kristina will email volunteers to reintroduce the program. Lisa, who will not be re-adopting her spot, will show Genevieve who expressed interest. We may want to re-read and revise the Clean Communities Guidelines brochure we hand out to volunteers. Also, we should go through all the printed material that Alice had, some of which may be irrelevant. We will work to be prepared with updated material

for future public events. Genevieve suggested we might want to discuss instituting an 'Adopt-a-storm drain' program.

- Kristina is preparing the State Tonnage Report which is due Saturday. She asked members how we hauled away 97,000 tons of oil-soaked contaminated soil in 2022. Most likely from the Cornell-Dubilier Site.

E. Forestry - TBD

- There was nothing new to report.

F. Highland Avenue Woods - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom read the report received from Dorothy Miele -
- The HAW trails need maintenance. Dorothy reached out to some Boy Scout contacts who have helped out in the past. Tom, Alice or Emile would need to be on hand to supervise.
- There are problems with the bridges/boardwalks that need repairing. This would be either an adult project or an Eagle Scout project. FOW has some funds to purchase lumber. Paul and his contact can reach out to Dorothy for more information.

G. Historical Sites Preservation - Mr. T. Walsh

- Dorothy posted the history about the Fishing Derby on the Facebook page.

H. Pollution - Mr. J. Ferguson

- John reported – New Jersey has two cities listed on the 'Dirtiest Cities' list: Newark and Jersey City.
- The most cancerous sites in New Jersey – the DEP is concentrating on looking at Ethylene Oxide. It is a colorless, flammable organic compound. It is widely used as a surface disinfectant in hospitals. It is also used for making many consumer products and non-consumer chemicals. There are facilities in Franklin (somerset cty.), and Linden.

I. Green Team - Mr. T. Walsh

- Tom reported that he, Melanie, Kristina, Debbie Boyle and Bob Longo attended the 5/30 meeting. There, Melanie announced the GT ordinance was drafted, went through a first reading and will go to the second reading for final approval. Then the Mayor will make appointments. Our committee will have input after the adoption. The next GT meeting is on 6/27.
- The GT submitted their Sustainable NJ action items. We are waiting to hear back on their comments. We then have some time to fix any recommendations they have. Bob Longo performed most of the online submissions/attachments.

J. Public Information & Technology - Ms. K. Nieradka

- There was nothing new to report.

K. Stormwater Advisory Committee - Mr. J. Ferguson

- There are two EPA grants available for 2025:
Brownfields Jobs Training program designed to train people to work on redeveloping brownfields. The deadline is 8/15/24. Environmental Climate Justice Community Change Grant – the projects should be community driven and address climate change.
- USDOT – they are working on strength and mobility to revolutionize transportation; more electric units on road and rail.

- NJDEP – REAL (resilient environment and landscapes). This aims to address impacts of sea-level rise and improve land and resource protection. The impact rules will affect flood hazard areas. They developed guidelines they refer to as CAFÉ (climate adjusted flood elevation). The DEP is trying to get people to plan for 100-year floods, plus add 5 feet to the base flood elevation, plus a foot for the freeboard.
- FEMA Grant 106 – They have asked all of our 21 counties to document what flood event saw the most damage/injury. Whatever each town finds to be critical would have a plan in place. The top five needed projects from each county would have FEMA send personnel out to design a project to be ready for the next time a town might have a disaster. There are 25 municipalities in Middlesex County.
- John mentioned the home on Tompkins Avenue that has seen flood damage a number of times is suing the Boro. John noted that the 'Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan' states that we are supposed to assess 20% of all our culverts etc. every five years.

L. Education – Mr. J. Ferguson

- John said he spoke with Mike Flynn, Woodbridge. He is not enthused about coming back for a presentation. John believes he can convince him to give a talk on the Green Infrastructure work that Woodbridge is doing. It would be general information on how to protect against flooding. Woodbridge is Gold Certified with Sustainable NJ.

M. Outreach – Mrs. G. Helbo / Ms. D. Leporino

- We will be having a table at Christmas in July. We will need to secure one for 'National Night Out.' Kristina said she will speak with Kathleen Benton about raising funds/asking for donations that the High School students said took place last year. However, SPEAC was not involved.
- Debra said if any member has an Event they would like our committee to attend, bring the idea to our meetings.

6. Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

7. Old Business

8. New Business

- Tom thanked Lisa for her service and work over the last 30 years. Members concurred.



9. Next Meeting – Wed., July 10, 2024 in the Boro Hall Conference Room

10. Comments for the Good of the Order

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned @ 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Lisa Roseo
 Environmental Advisory Committee Secretary

Acronyms

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South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee

Official Minutes – July 10, 2024

1. Call To Order

Notice having been filed with the S.P. Observer and TAP Into SP, Chairwoman, Debra Leporino called the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Debra Leporino (Chairwoman), John Ferguson, Genevieve Helbo, Kristina Nieradka

Others: Richard Houghton (Planning Board), Kathleen Benton (South Plainfield H.S.

Teacher/Environmental Science), Bob Longo (Green Team)

Absent: Melanie Mott (excused), Tom Walsh (excused), John McConville

2. Approval of Minutes

3. Invitation for Public Comment

No one from the public attended.

4. Budget

We have \$3,000 budget and any expenditures must be approved by Borough Council first.

5. Committee and Liaison Reports

Chairwoman's Report – Ms. D. Leporino

- Debra spoke to Bob Bengivenga and corrected herself with regards to voting rights and paid Borough employees. Certain boards require a Borough employee to be on the board and a voting member. The only time it becomes a conflict is if the board is voting on something that would benefit said employee financially. Bob also shared with Debra that when the EAC was a commission they had a lot of jurisdiction they were their own government entity and didn't need council approval. In any and all codes and ordinances that had to do with the Environmental Commission were named or listed 2023/2024 on the Borough website. The EAC with sub-committee of the Green Team is an advisory committee who reports to Borough Council. The EAC decides on the monthly meetings and whether meetings are cancelled or not. Debra does not plan on cancelling any meetings unless there is no quorum.
- Any money we spend, flyers, promotional supplies etc. has to be approved by Council. Once we receive the By-Laws we will have a better explanation.
- Clean Communities, based on Grants, Adopt – A – Spot is managed by the Clean Communities Coordinator, Kristina Nieradka. Debra has been helping with Adopt – A – Spot. Kristina is also the Recycling Coordinator and her and Paul are managing the operations for recycling.
- Debra extended any help or assistance from herself and the Committee with anything that may be needed for both Clean Communities and Recycling.
- Debra Leporino, Chairwoman of the EAC officially recognized and appointed the Green Team and Creative Team as subcommittees of the Environmental Advisory Committee. Members of the Green Team are Bob Longo, Chairperson, Debbie Boyle, Tom Walsh, Jonathan Walek and Kathleen Benton. Members of the Creative Team are Jonathan Walek and Debbie Boyle. Going forward on the Agenda the Green Team and the Creative Team will be added. Jonathan forwards an email to Bob

Longo with status and Bob will send that email to Debra to share at the EAC meetings.

- By-laws were discussed as far as when to expect them and what is the process of obtaining them.

Council Liaison – Ms. Melanie Mott

- Melanie - excused absence.

Planning Board Liaison – Mr. Richard Houghton / Mr. Brian Bythell

- Met last night and discussed 2 minor subdivisions. Ricochet is moving along for a warehouse. Allen Flavors will be using it as a warehouse half refrigerated. Pool portion will be a warehouse the remaining will be office space. Will be starting as soon as possible with the inside. They will be planting 41 trees. It will be worked out with the Engineers and Planners. Debra asked if they check to make sure they comply and she was answered with yes a final inspection will be done for everything that is approved or required.

Clean Communities – Ms. Kristina Nieradka / Ms. Debra Leporino

- Handed out T-Shirts for the Environmental Advisory Committee to be worn at events and public outreach. Kathleen Benton needs a medium shirt, she just joined the Green Team.
- Purchased a wheel for the questions and give aways at the events.
- Showed a sample of our banner which will be 2 x 8 for our events.
- High School Environmental Science students table will be next to us for Christmas in July. Debra recommended we get the HS a sign, maybe in the future.
- We will have street signs that say “Environmental Advisory Committee” and “Green Team” so we can have a decoration at events.
- 3 primary focal points at Christmas in July. Recycle Coach, Adopt- A – Spot and Do’s and Don’ts of curbside recycling. We will have a game for residents to play using garbage picker to identify what you can and cannot recycle. Recycle Coach have a display with QR code and says if residents download the App they will get a prize. Adopt-A-Spot if residents sign up they will also get a free gift.
- For future events we would like to have a focal point of reusable bag collection. More details to follow up with before we offer drop off locations. These bags are needed for food banks.
- Kristina prepared binders containing information for Sustainable Jersey and Adopt – A -Spot. The binders will have flyers, maps, applications, contracts everything needed for education and signing up. At future date need to review all spots and place signage at these locations.
- Bob Longo questioned if we need to separate QR codes for Recycle Coach one for Apple and one for iOS. Kristina will check with Recycle Coach to confirm only one QR code is needed.
- Ordered pens that say “South Plainfield Adopt-A-Spot” for giveaways.
- Kristina will email Debra the new flyers, litter collection sheets and letters for Adopt-A-Spot. The litter collection sheets will now be handed in as the Adoptee’s clean their location, not yearly. Kristina will also update the Borough’s website with all of the new Adopt-A-Spot forms.

- Purchased bracelets and lollipops with recycling logo. Try to keep the costs of the promotion items at minimal. We have "left overs" from previous years that have outdated information so we will utilize what we can.
- Discussed that perhaps in the future we can have a handout for South Plainfield's goals with Sustainable NJ, what we accomplished and what we project to accomplish. Not many residents know what the Green Team or Sustainable NJ is all about.
- Kristina will bring the tables, chairs, tent, promotional items, decorations for Christmas in July. Debra, Bob, Genevieve, John, Kathleen and the HS Students will all be attending.
- Debra asked if we should do 2 tables for National Night Out. The only reason we have 2 tables for Christmas in July is because HS Students will be trying to get donations for the Up-Cycle theme.
- Kristina placed the press release for the new Adopt-A-Spot locations.

Forestry – TBD

- John Mc Conville was absent. John Ferguson brought information from PSEG website about replanting street trees. Shows the type of trees they recommend. Kristina will give a copy to John Mc Conville. We have funds for tree replacement. Need to figure out how we can implement a procedure for tree replacement.

Highland Ave Woods – Mr. Tom Walsh

- Tom Walsh was absent.

Historical Sites Preservation – Mr. Tom Walsh

- Tom Walsh was absent.

Pollution – Mr. John Ferguson

- New Superfund site that is approved. The old dump site they are going to clean it up. Off of Metuchen Road. Dig up all soil, burn it or have the bugs eat it. There is a section that is considered the preserve. There are trails that go to Coolidge.
- Extreme Heat Middlesex and Somerset Counties have both has the most heat advisories and the air quality has been in the red zone. There are two more levels after "red", extremely dangerous to those with respiratory issues.
- John will supply Kristina with a vendor to dispose of refrigerant. We are going to be extracting the refrigerant internally just need to know how to dispose of it prior to changing the process over.

Green Team – Mr. Bob Longo

- We are up for certification this year with Sustainable NJ. Working through it to meet all actions items by July 25, 2024. Bob said we are going to be right on the fence with the points need. Jonathan has about 40 points alone.
- Next meeting is July 25, 2024 at 7:00 at Bob Longo's office is anyone would like to attend.
- Kristina asked if the actions with Sustainable NJ are the same each time. Bob said a lot of them just carry over and we have to re-certify.
- Alice was a major role in supplying information for the Sustainable NJ. Bob is trying to take care of all of the outstanding items from Alice and himself.

- Once we are done with the submission deadline of this year we will have a discussion as to what action items will be handling for the next round.

Public Information & Technology – Ms. Kristina Nieradka

- Kristina will advertise events on Facebook. Would love to have as many followers as Lori Z.

Stormwater Advisory Committee – Mr. John Ferguson

- Prediction future perception they are saying the 2 year storm is going to increase 24%, 10 year storm increase to 27% and 100 year storm increase to 50%. Will see a lot more rain. Grass is pretty much gone so flooding going to happen.
- Limit the amount of impervious coverage.
- Bob Longo stated that Alice had mentioned that the environmental boards should have specific check list as to what is required. Our current storm water ordinance does not have any specifications.
- Kristina shared with group that Jimmy Patti inspects all of the inlets, culverts, outfalls.

Education – Mr. John Ferguson

- Didn't talk to Thomas in the last few weeks was supposed to have a meeting yesterday, hopefully he will be able to talk to him next week.
- Debra looked at the website on the Green Infrastructure she thinks that would be good for the residents. She asked if the HS Students could do the warmup to the presentation maybe with the rain barrel.

Outreach – Mrs. Genevieve Helbo / Mrs. Debra Leporino

- Christmas in July and National Night Out. When Debra spoke to Rob Bengivenga she mentioned to him it would be nice to have a "Spring Time" event. Kristina shared with Debra that we will be doing the Bunny Hop which is a Spring Event. Debra said maybe reach out to Kelly Daley to see if they could do a Spring Event. We also talked about doing Trunk or Treat.

Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

- Renewals Thank Yous for the Adopt-A-Spots for 1st and 2nd quarter went out.

Old Business

- PSEG free energy checks will discuss when Melanie is in attendance

New Business

- Debra invited Kathleen to meeting to join the Green Team. Debra would like to do a Mr. Subs fundraiser for HS. Genevieve offer to help with fundraiser. Any monies collected for fundraising could possibly be used towards the HS Environmental Students greenhouse.
- Kathleen shared with us that the Greenhouse at the High School is too hot to work in right now. Trying to partner with the Life Style kids. Can only donate items unless food inspection occurs. They need seeds and operating supplies. Nutrition class, environmental class, bunch of students utilize it. The HS got a grant for solar panels

for the Greenhouse to heat it during winter. They can't install yet until they figure out where the solar panels can be placed. They would love to sell flowers for holidays, however. Kristina shared that there is about 100 volunteers that are willing to help get the Greenhouse up and running. All donations from Christmas in July will go to HS Students Environmental Science.

- Debra would like to research maybe offering a Scholarship for the HS Environmental Science students. Debra suggested applicants can write an essay. Kathleen Benton recommended perhaps a video and they also have to do volunteer hours. More details to be discussed. A committee will be formed to discuss the details. Kathleen offered to assist.
- Bag Distribution, we will have to discuss at future date for reusable bag collection spots.

Next Meeting

- August 14, 2024 7:30 pm in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

Comments for the Good of Order

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned @ 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristina Nieradka
Recycling & Clean Community Coordinator

South Plainfield Environmental Advisory Committee

Official Minutes – August 14, 2024

1. Call To Order

Notice having been filed with the S.P. Observer and TAP Into SP, Chairwoman, Debra Leporino called the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:33 p.m.

Present: Debra Leporino (Chairwoman), John Ferguson, Genevieve Helbo, Melanie Mott, John McConville and Kristina Nieradka

Others: Teacher/Environmental Science, Bob Longo (Green Team)

Absent: Kathleen Benton (excused) Tom Walsh (excused)

2. Approval of Minutes

- Two minor corrections from July 10th meeting minutes
 - o Clean Communities and New Business it just says “high school students”, correct to read “high school environmental science students”.
 - o Add that any fundraising can potentially benefit high school environmental students towards their greenhouse.
 - o Debra wants to add who adjourns the meeting to the minutes going forward. Kristina shared with the group that it was not listed like that in the past.
- John Ferguson motioned to accept the minutes and John McConville seconded.

3. Invitation for Public Comment

No one from the public attended.

4. Budget

We have \$3,000 budget and any expenditures must be approved by Borough Council first. We made our first purchase, a canopy for our events. Motion to approve the purchase from Melanie Mott and John Ferguson seconded. Kristina will create and maintain a spreadsheet showing the accounting of the budget.

5. Committee and Liaison Reports

Chairwoman’s Report – Ms. D. Leporino

-Debra said the website needs to be updated and Kristina shared with the group that she updates the website. Discussed what version of the agenda should be posted and agreed a “standard” agenda will remain posted. Melanie checked the website and the committee members are in fact listed, just missing John McConville. No other updates are needed. Kristina will update the website. A suggestion was made to list the actual meeting dates vs. saying 2nd Wednesday and group agreed on keeping the 2nd Wednesday of each month, less to maintain.

-Christmas in July went very well. We captured 22 residents who downloaded Recycle Coach.

Council Liaison – Ms. Melanie Mott

-Sustainable application submitted, we needed 150 points for bronze and we submitted 190. We should hear back by the end of the month.

Planning Board Liaison – Mr. Richard Houghton / Mr. Brian Bythell

-No Representative present.

Clean Communities – Ms. Kristina Nieradka / Ms. Debra Leporino

- National Night Out has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2024, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Putnam Park.
- Fall Cleanup date needs to be established. Historically it is done around the same weekend, 3rd or 4th Saturday of September. We need to avoid NNO. Decided to schedule for September 21st which is also Worlds Clean Up Day. If we need a back up date all ok with October 5th. Do not think there is anything conflicting for 9/21/24.
- Debra and Kristina attended the Business Association Meeting and will send out the flyer for Adopt-A-Spot. Discussed trying to capture businesses who are located near an AAS to see if they would be interested in participating with the program.
- Kristina working on the AAS with the signage and we do not have a lot of participates. Trying to capture more interest in the program. Many dangerous areas and hard to adopt them out. How were the spots established, so many in locations that are not safe.
- If we clean any County roads, employees can get paid overtime and County reimburses.
- We have litter patrol with a part time employee, however not a huge staff for litter control.
- Discussed public litter cans about how the locations are random in some locations.
- We reactivated “community service” workers. They may be able to assist with litter control.
- Kristina submitted a Clean Communities required report to State.
- Debra reached out to all 3rd quarter AAS. She makes a phone call first; 4 for the 3rd quarter. Waiting for them to reach back out. If an adoptee does not respond to renew their contract, we will give them 30 days to respond, if they do not, we will not hold their spot.

Forestry – John McConville

- John Ferguson supplied John with a list of recommended trees for planting. Residents who want tree replacement so far we have had 2 residents inquire; 4 Diana Drive, 151 East Crescent Parkway (near medical building). It has been approved by Glenn to do tree replacement, we need to figure out the logistics/procedure of who plants the tree and maintains. John will go check locations to see what type of trees can be planted. Maybe we can create a form to outline procedure. Discussed maybe offering certain trees based on cost and type. Need to find out how much in tree fund.

Highland Ave Woods – Mr. Tom Walsh

- Tom Walsh was absent.

Historical Sites Preservation – Mr. Tom Walsh

- Tom Walsh was absent.

Pollution – Mr. John Ferguson

- TRI came out Toxic Release Inventory came out July 10th. NJ has 60 pages of locations that release chemicals, we have 9 locations who are above the limit in South Plainfield. 2 locations are very high.

Green Team – Mr. Bob Longo

- Toms Walsh was absent Melanie spoke about Sustainable NJ.

Public Information & Technology – Ms. Kristina Nieradka

- Have been placing posts on Facebook. Most recent is the Paper Shred Event coming up on October. Location for the Shred Event is now located at the Recycling Center. Event if October 12th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- Melanie asked if any one from the County can come to our Paper Shred Event. County gives us a grant to host this event. Is that tied into opening to all residents in the county? Kristina will check.
- Kristina in the process of changing our vendors at the Recycling Center to better service our residents and also increase the amount of monies coming into the Borough.

Stormwater Advisory Committee – Mr. John Ferguson

- John signed up for class ANJEC on 9/10/24 for Adopt a Drain. He will share the information with us. This will help educate the public of the importance of storm drain management.
- NJDEP came out with their new proposal for climate change. Storm water and high flood areas. Sky is not falling but is increasing. NJDEP thinks their proposal is way to go we can read. Please see the attached article.

Education – Mr. John Ferguson

- Mr. Flynn from Woodbridge for a presentation on Rain Gardens. Would Mr. Flynn speaking to us or public and the cost would be free. Debra said we will have at the Senior Center. Melanie concerns, we are asking a lot of residents to adopt things...perhaps we should consider storm drains first. Who is maintaining the rain gardens. Maybe build one rain garden at Borough Hall to “advertise” the benefits and gets the ideas out there. We should hold off on presentation on the Rain Gardens for now. However, the timing is off. Melanie recommended he speak to the committee first vs. having a presentation first. Just so we know what we are up against. Mr. Flynn would mostly be speaking about what Woodbridge does, they have huge staff for accomplish. Maybe twist it to show how residents can build they own rain gardens. How much does it cost to build a rain garden? Not sure of the costs involved. The committee discussed would this be an event that we would attract a large crowd or would it be a smaller group? Melanie mentioned there could potentially be a Grant she saw one for Perth Amboy. John McConville added that he emailed Glenn Cullen and the Mayor about a program sponsored by T Mobile called Home Town Grants covers a bunch of projects up to \$15,000. It can be requested by elected employees. John McConville will email Melanie information about Home Town Grants.

Outreach – Mrs. Genevieve Helbo / Mrs. Debra Leporino

- NNO
- Trunk or Treat Debra said he son just bought a new truck and maybe we can use it. We do not have the official date yet. We have recycling lollipops. Public Celebrations takes a lot of candy donations so perhaps they supply the candy.
- Have the parade float going on now. Floats are massive having a challenge making things big enough to fill. The float will be a theme of “Frozen”, High School Environmental Science students will be dressed up as Olaf. Float being assembled the Saturday before, August 31st if anyone wants to help decorate. Students will help promote the items that are in fact curbside recyclable and what is trash. Float will be interactive. Goal is to make recycling exciting and interesting. Kristina working with the students.
- Debra mentioned again about having a Spring Event. The Business Association was thinking of having a “Touch a Truck”, maybe we could have a table then.
- Debra suggested having a table at the Christmas Tree Lighting. However we do not feel that is the right environment for outreach.

Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

- Discussed the Adopt A Spot renewals were sent out. Press releases were done for Adopt A Spot and Paper Shred, in addition to an article for semi annual recycling reminder.

Old Business

- PSEG Free not to everyone, income qualify energy check up. Anything wrong in the home potentially can be fixed free of charge with PSEG. Should we post on Facebook or website? Melaine will supply Kristina will link for the main portion of the website that explains the program.

New Business

- Fundraising; HSES Students help us maybe we can do a fundraiser such as Mr. Subs. We did a donation jar at Christmas in July they made about \$100. Maybe we could come up with a different fundraiser than a restaurant. Perhaps a carwash, plant sale etc. Carwash may be a bad idea since it is not ideal since the soap should not be discharged into storm drains. Maybe a townwide garage sale. Debra mentioned that other groups in the HS might get upset with us if we do a fundraiser for Environmental vs. other groups within the school. Discuss in next meeting if will make a sub committee.
- Scholarship; can we fundraise to earn money for scholarships? How does the PD do their scholarships? Legion does scholarships too. Not sure where the money comes from or how to start. Discuss in next meeting if will make a sub committee.
- Bag Distribution; it is a reusable bag collection. There are lots of steps that need to be taken before we can offer to our residents including cleaning of the donated bags.

Next Meeting

- September 11, 2024, 7:30 pm in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

Comments for the Good of Order

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by John McConville and seconded by (cannot hear the audio too many people speaking) , all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned @ 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristina Nieradka
Recycling & Clean Community Coordinator

EAC Meeting Notes

September 11, 2024 - Revised

Attendance: Glenn Cullen, Melanie Mott, Debra Leporino, Debbie Boyle, John McConville, Tom Walsh, John Ferguson, Rich Houghton, Genevieve Helbo

Invitation to the Public to Speak, Debra Leporino:

Glenn Cullen came to the meeting said no minutes, Kristina will just do notes so she may prepare year end report.

Budget, Kristina Nieradka:

Per Glenn, no need to vote on purchases already approved by him. Kristina handed out an Excel spreadsheet showing the accounting.

Chairwoman's Report, Debra Leporino:

Float Success

Council Liaison, Melanie Mott:

Rain gardens, intense and expensive to build. Tom Flynn perhaps can give lecture in Spring to show how residents to build their own.

Planning Board Liaison Brian Bythell & Rich Houghton:

Nothing to report no meetings.

Clean Communities, Kristina Nieradka:

Events coming up – Fall Cleanup 9/21, National Night Out 9/28, Buddy Walk 10/5 (no table, members could sign up to walk wear EAC T-shirt), Paper Shred 10/12, Trunk or Treat 10/26. Problem locations with litter such as Americold/Kentile road is really bad. Need to review how Adopt A Spots were established and can we add new locations. KN will reach out to Alice.

Clean Communities Adopt A Spot, Debra Leporino:

2 New adoptees

3rd quarter no response

Forestry, John McConville:

Working with resident on East Crescent. Looking into acceptable trees and when to plant. Resident wants same trees that are planted on Norwood. Considering creating a form for replanting trees. Dom in Building Department may have a list of acceptable trees.

Highland Ave. Woods/Public Ed., Tom Walsh:

Nothing to report.

Historical Sites Preservation, Tom Walsh:

Nothing to report.

Pollution, John Ferguson:

57 million tons of plastic waste has been generated. India produced most 10.2 million...US is 90th in the world. Air pollution 131 million people 40% of the county is unhealthiness for air pollutants.

Green Team, Debbie Boyle:

Submitted for the Broze Certification, submitted for more points than needed. Windows of Understanding looking for HS to do a drawing of what they can do to change the future for climate change. Looking into the action items for the certification.

Public Information & Technology, Kristina Nieradka:

County needs us to enforce curbside recycling. Wrong items being put in blue containers. Recently there was a paint can and then a lithium battery which exploded and ruined entire garbage truck. Curbside residents using plastic bags vs. containers. How to enforce?

Stormwater Advisory, John Ferguson:

Adopt A Drain – Have to pay for outside organization to help maintain records etc. Have to tie to MS4, software program. Name the drain that they were responsible for people more likely to clean. They need the data of how many tons is saved from going down the drain. Very similar to Adopt a Spot. Hurricane Season – Gave handout for all to read.

Education, Debra Leporino & John Ferguson:

Last Green Team looking at list of actions to see if we can possibly set the goal for Silver level. Everyone can look on Sustainable NJ to see actions. There is a mission statement, maybe advertise and educate the public about what the Green Team does. Put monthly articles in TAP about subjects.

Outreach, Debra Leporino & John Genevieve Helbo:

Discussed the dates of events. Might have a Touch A Truck event in the Spring. Meeting for South Plainfield Business Association Park Ave Diner on October 25th at 6:00 pm all welcome to come.

Incoming/Outgoing, Debra Leporino:

SPBA send out emails to all businesses for Fall Cleanup for sponsors. No responses came in.

Old Business:

No old business

New Business, Debra Leporino:

Fundraising – hold off speak to Melanie to see if we can do maybe for a scholarship. Scholarship criteria could be something like a video. Need Kathleen Benton input.
SP Website - The Borough's website is updated by Kristina for all information pertaining to Recycling, Environmental and Clean Communities.

Next Meeting:

October 9, 2024 @ 7:30 at Borough Hall Conference Room.

Comments for the Good of the Order:

John Ferguson will not be at the next meeting.

John Mc Conville motion to adjourn meeting

Genevieve Helbo Seconded

EAC Meeting Notes

November 13, 2024

Attendance: Debra Leporino, Debbie Boyle, Tom Walsh, Brian Bythell, Genevieve Helbo, John Ferguson, John McConville, Kristina Nieradka, Melanie Mott

Opening Comments, Debra Leporino:

-2 Committee Members are coming up to the end of their term by the end of this year, Genevieve Helbo and John Ferguson. John said he does not wish to continue with the Committee and will be at the next meeting. You will be missed John, you have a world of knowledge.

-Meeting notes will be tabled as per Debra. Melanie addressed how minutes are done, they are notes for Kristina to do the year end report. The meeting notes will be distributed to Committee Members only, add attendance and list who gives each report.

-Motion to accept the notes with corrections, John Ferguson and seconded by John McConville.

Invitation to the Public to Speak, Debra Leporino:

No one from the public to speak.

Budget, Kristina Nieradka:

No changed, we only purchased a tent.

Chairwoman's Report, Debra Leporino:

Nothing to report.

Council Liaison, Melanie Mott:

Nothing to report

Planning Board Liaison, Brian Bythell & Rich Houghton:

Nothing to report. Minor resolutions. Starting with strip mall on Hamilton. That was put off last meeting.

Clean Communities, Kristina Nieradka:

Adopt A Spot renewals are dropping. Trying new things to get new people to Adopt.

Clean Communities Adopt A Spot, Debra Leporino:

No renewals. One for the 4th quarter will send out notification.

Forestry, John McConville:

East Crescent for 25 trees just shy of \$15,000. Tom shared with us that is too many trees the canopy of that tree when mature is very big, he will look at location and advise. John McConville will get a revised estimate with 10 trees and see if there is a warranty (1 year standard). John will also get another estimate from another landscaper so we can approach Glenn for approval.

Highland Ave. Woods/Public Ed., Tom Walsh:

Tom received an email from Dorthy expressing concerns about the garbage cans at Nature Center, the Borough Logo on our Facebook page is incorrectly dated and the bridges at the Nature Reserve are in need of repair. need a carpenter. Tom will send out the email (attached).

Historical Sites Preservation, Tom Walsh:

Nothing to report.

Pollution, John Ferguson:

John handed out the official TRI Report (attached). Largest pollution offender is shown in the report for South Plainfield which is a very high level, but still within the threshold. This is an annual air quality report, biggest consideration is air pollution. Handed out Lead Pipe article stating the water companies will be forced to replace lines (attached). Middlesex County has been very busy they had a major failure of a battery coupling that caught fire also had multiple car accidents which seems to be impacted from time change.

Green Team, Tom Walsh:

Green Team achieved enough points to earn Bronze Award. Award luncheon is on November 19th at 10:30 in Atlantic City. Bob Longo, Tom Walsh, Debbie Boyle, Kristina Nieradka and Debra Leporino will be attending. Currently working on new action items. No meetings for November and December. National Drug Take Back we collected 75 pounds.

Public Information & Technology, Kristina Nieradka:

Kristina posting fun flyers and games on EAC Facebook. Feedback has been positive and educational.

Stormwater Advisory, John Ferguson:

John attended Greenbrook Flood Commission meeting they have finally finalized everything and have the ability to use the money, do not need contribution from the State. They are finishing up on South Lincoln big gate should be finished December. Still have not gotten property on Pond, the owner wants a huge amount of money. Has to go to Army core to condemn to start process. Next decision is the upper basin. Wanted to make roadway in Watchung deeper that so water comes down the mountain which is not ideal for flooding.

Education, Debra Leporino & John Ferguson:

Nothing to report.

Outreach, Debra Leporino & John Ferguson:

Events done for the year. Taste of South Plainfield Debra spoke to a lot of people about Adopt A Spot and Recycling, did not get any contacts. Buddy Walk, Debra was there by herself.

Incoming/Outgoing:

Debra Leporino - Going forward and documents that have the EAC name on it is requested it is brought to the committees attention prior to it going out. Float was under the EAC which was discussed over the course of many meetings, Debra said 2 members of our community approached her about the float being under the EAC. No further discussion is required.

Old Business:

Debra Leporino - Reached out to Amy about the Green Team resolution goes back to 2020. Glitch with website with a link. (Kristina updates the website not Amy. KN had it fixed). Debbie Boyle expressed concern that pictures and events not on website. Melanie will look into the Green Team resolution by the next meeting then the website will be updated.

Debria Leporino – Wants to consult with Borough Attorney to see if an Adopt A Spot contract expired can they still clean location. Melanie said she will ask Paul Rizzo.

New Business:

Debra Leoparino – Bob Longo had suggested Green Team action item of Green Fair and should develop a “sub-committee”. Debbie Boyle suggested it should just be a group effort and Tom suggested bringing in the criteria for the Green Fair to next meeting.

Next Meeting:

December 11, 2024 @ 7:30 pm Borough Hall Conference Room

Comments for the Good of the Order:

Nothing to report

Genevieve Helbo, motion to adjourn meeting

Brian Bythell, Seconded