

Environmental Commission Minutes

January 11, 2024

1. **Call to Order-** Time: 7:08pm

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

2. **Statement of Compliance with Open Meetings Act**

3. **Roll Call-** present: Jay Ali, Joe Messick, Antonio Cardona, Tom Flynn, Chantal Greffer, Tammy Rapp DaRocha

Absent: Dawn Genoni, Rick Viteri, Danny Charles Estain

4. **Approval of the minutes from December meeting-** motion: CG second: JM

5. **Public Portion:** motion to open 7:10pm by JA, second by AC

motion to close 7:10pm by JA, second by TF

6. **Old Business:**

- Tom shared information on the policy and procedure that Public Works regarding tree planting. We will look at ways we could assist in this area. We will discuss this further at our March meeting.
- Community Garden at Parker Press- we would like to stay with East Green Street and look into ways to fortify fencing
- Annual Report is our document and not a requirement to complete/update, However we will take a look at it and discuss.
- Roberta Martin, Woodbridge River Watch, will be invited to speak at our Seed Library Kickoffs

New Business

- Projects for 2024 (see information shared by Caroline)
- Dates for remaining 2024 meetings * (all meetings at Town Hall unless otherwise noted)
 - *February 8, 2024
 - *March 14, 2024
 - *April 11, 2024
 - *May 9, 2024
 - *June 13, 2024
 - *September 12, 2024
 - *October 10, 2024
 - *November 14, 2024
 - *December 12, 2024
- Open Mail

7. **Motions to take Action**

8. **Adjournment:** 8:03pm motion: JM second: JA

Environmental Commission Minute

February 8, 2024

1. **Call to Order-** Time: 7:09pm
Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
2. **Statement of Compliance with Open Meetings Act**
3. **Roll Call-** present: Tom Flynn, Dawn Genoni, Joe Messick, Chantal Greffer, Tammy Rapp DaRocha
Absent: Rick Viteri, Antonio Cardona, Danny Charles Estain, Jay Ali
4. **Approval of the minutes from January meeting-** motion: DG second: JM
5. **Public Portion:** motion to open at 7:15pm by TF, second by JM
Morgan Crouch, Watershed Ambassador, came to tell us about their programs
motion to close 7:20pm by CG, second by DG
6. **Old Business:**
 - Seed library kickoffs- Roberta Martin, Woodbridge River Watch to speak
 - Discussed Community Garden on East Green street- ask Leo Facchin ideas about flowers to plant on perimeter as well as ideas for fencing

New Business

- Ideas on how to involve local teens/Youth Leadership/High School students- must clear with Caroline, Megan, and John Hegerty before any action is taken- maybe the students can babysit the plants until it is the right time to plant them
- Discussed reusable bags, clean ups that are happening in other municipalities (maybe we can do something like this at Oros Park)
- February 28 Stakeholders Meeting for Living Shoreline at Sewaren Library at 7pm
- March 14, 2024- Seed Library Kickoff in Fords Branch (Roberta Martin has agreed to speak at both), 7pm (confirm that the location has been formally changed and posted in newspaper and on website and that flier has been posted on website, Facebook, etc).
- Tom gave an update on what the township is doing in regards to tree planting program, recycling program, food waste, sustainable restaurants, etc.
- Future meetings-

7. Motions to take Action

Future Business; Joe mentioned a document that Cultural Arts Commission uses that organizes what they want to accomplish- will discuss at next meeting

8. **Adjournment:** 8:30pm motion: CG second: DG

Environmental Commission Minutes

March 14, 2024

1. **Call to Order-** Time: 7:45pm
Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
2. **Statement of Compliance with Open Meetings Act**
3. **Roll Call-** present: Joe Messick, Dawn Genoni, Jay Ali, Danny "Charles" Estain, Tom Flynn, Chantal Greffer, Tammy Rapp DaRocha
Absent: Ricardo Viteri, Antonio Cardona
4. **Approval of the minutes from February meeting-** motion: CG second: JM
5. **Public Portion:** motion to open 7:45pm by TF, second by DG
motion to close 7:46pm by DG, second by JA
6. **Old Business:**
 - Seed Library Kickoff took place this evening at Fords Branch

New Business

- Tammy and Dawn meeting with Peter Barcellona in future to purchase plants for community garden
- Earth Day Fair- April 20, 2024- location Acacia
- Joe mentioned a document that Cultural Arts Commission uses that organizes what they want to accomplish- will discuss at next meeting
- Announced Climate Action Gathering, 4/13/24 if anyone is interested in attending
- Goal to get trees planted in the community
- Dates for remaining 2024 meetings * (all meetings at Town Hall unless otherwise noted)
March 28, 2024- seed library kickoff in Iselin Branch
*April 11, 2024
April 20, 2024- Earth Day Fair at Acacia
*May 9, 2024
*June 13, 2024
*September 12, 2024
*October 10, 2024
*November 14, 2024
*December 12, 2024
- Open Mail (n/a)

7. Motions to take Action

8. **Adjournment:** 7:55pm motion: CG second: JA

Environmental Commission Minutes

April 11, 2024

1. **Call to Order-** Time: 7:03pm
Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
2. **Statement of Compliance with Open Meetings Act**
3. **Roll Call-** present: Joe Messick, Dawn Genoni, Jay Ali,, Tom Flynn, Chantal Greffer, Tammy Rapp DaRocha
Absent: Ricardo Viteri, Antonio Cardona, Danny "Charles" Estain
4. **Approval of the minutes from February meeting-** motion: DG second: CG
5. **Public Portion:** motion to open 7:07pm by JA, second by CG
motion to close 7:07pm by JM, second by DG
6. **Old Business:**
 - Fencing the community garden

New Business

- Community garden fencing is too costly, concerns about safety when having youth or community members come for cleanups
- Seed Library Kickoffs took place- poor showing; need more advertising, maybe couple it with another event; Roberta Martin was awesome speaker
- Earth Day Fair- April 20, 2024- location Acacia- planned who will cover and what we will give away
- How do we want to help with tree give aways and mitigation of heat islands
- Dates for remaining 2024 meetings * (all meetings at Town Hall unless otherwise noted)
 - March 28, 2024- seed library kickoff in Iselin Branch
 - *April 11, 2024
 - April 20, 2024- Earth Day Fair at Acacia
 - *May 9, 2024
 - *June 13, 2024
 - *September 12, 2024
 - *October 10, 2024
 - *November 14, 2024
 - *December 12, 2024
- Open Mail (n/a)

7. **Motions to take Action**
8. **Adjournment:** 8:29pm motion: DG second: JA

Environmental Commission Minutes

June 13, 2024

Call to Order- Time: 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

1. Statement of Compliance with Open Meetings Act

2. Roll Call- present: Kush Shah, Tammy, Rapp DaRocha, Dawn Genoni, Joe Messick, Tom Flynn, Chantal Greffer

Absent: Danny "Charles" Estain, Jay Ali, Antonio Cardona

3. Approval of the minutes from April meeting- motion: TF second:DG

4. Public Portion: motion to open 7:09pm by JM, second by KS

motion to close 7:17pm by JM, second by KS

5. Old Business:

- Community Garden at Parker Press- planting native plants over the summer

New Business

- Tree project for us to participate in, possible invitation to Youth Leadership Council for Sustainability; tree offers to first 100 residents who are interested; we need to choose an area that would benefit from more trees; dates?
- Planting in our community garden- George Brew and DPW will clean out dangerous things and the beds are our responsibility; who is able to participate? Dates? I need to secure plants from Fish and Wildlife; this may be at end of summer- I have a text out to Robert Somes
- Dates for remaining 2024 meetings * (all meetings at Town Hall unless otherwise noted)
 - *September 12, 2024
 - Location TBD- National Public Lands Day- date? Lead hikes through new trail- how will we identify the native species of trees? Who is able to participate?
 - *October 10, 2024
 - *November 14, 2024 (we discussed changing the date due to my availability)
 - *December 12, 2024
 - *proposed dates for 2025-
- Open Mail

6. Motions to take Action

7. Adjournment: 8:15pm motion: DG second: KS

Environmental Commission Minutes

September 12, 2024

Call to Order- Time: 7:01pm

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

1. **Statement of Compliance with Open Meetings Act**
 2. **Roll Call-** present: Jay Ali, Chantal Greffer, Joe Messick, Kush Shah, Dawn Genoni, Tom Flynn, Tammy Rapp DaRocha
Absent: Danny Charles Estain, Antonio Cardona
 3. **Approval of the minutes from June meeting-** motion: DG second:KS
 4. **Public Portion:** motion to open 7:03pm by JA, second by DG
motion to close 7:04pm by JA, second by KS
 5. **Old Business:**
 - Tree project- discussed the door to door canvassing and response of the 2 campaigns- 120 trees ordered from Pinelands- met quota in 3 days! Ward 1 heat island campaign received 10 to 20 responses
 - Native plants for community garden to draw pollinators- we need to address the community garden on East Green- it has been cleaned up- we will look to have the beds tilled by DPW and get plants from Fish and Wildlife for spring/summer; the native plants we will receive at this time will be used for rain garden planting during National Public Lands day
- New Business**
- National Public Lands Day- Nicole will hand out trees from 8:30 to noon- we can assist
 - Update on sustainability project with area restaurants- surveys coming in- Original Pancake House receiving award; survey is on the Greenable website
 - Oct 5 is National Drive Electric week- New Street lot is location- will have vendors and opportunities to drive an electric vehicle
 - Dates for remaining 2024 meetings * (all meetings at Town Hall unless otherwise noted)
 - *September 12, 2024
 - September 28, 2024- Location Oros Park- National Public Lands Day; Who is able to participate? Youth Leadership Council students invited
 - *October 10, 2024
 - *November 19, 2024 (we discussed changing the date due to my availability)
 - *December 12, 2024
 - *proposed dates for 2025-
 - Open Mail
6. **Motions to take Action**
 7. **Adjournment:** 7:29pm motion: DG second: JA

Environmental Commission Minutes

December 12, 2024

Call to Order- Time: 7:06pm

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

1. **Statement of Compliance with Open Meetings Act**
2. **Roll Call-** present:, Danny Charles Estain, Chantal Greffer, Joe Messick, Kush Shah, Dawn Genoni, Tom Flynn, Tammy Rapp DaRocha
Absent: Antonio Cardona, Jay Ali
3. **Approval of the minutes from September meeting-** motion: DG second:JM
4. **Public Portion:** motion to open 7:07pm by CG, second by DG

Kaitlin Pinto shared about her role as a watershed ambassador and more about the program.

motion to close 7:22pm by CG, second by JM

5. Old Business:

- Tree project- discussed possible plans for next year
- National Public Lands Day tree pick up
- Native plants for community garden to draw pollinators- Tom has met with 2 Eagle Scouts and there may be some involvement from them, also will ask DPW to do the heavy lifting

New Business

- Chantal shared about Seed Savers and "One Seed One Community" program. EC members agreed to try this. Will partner with Monica Eppinger of the library.
- Proposed Dates for 2025 meetings * (all meetings at Town Hall unless otherwise noted)
 - *January 9
 - *February 13
 - *March 13
 - *April 10
 - *May 8 (Start "One Seed, One Community" program)
 - *June 12
 - *September 9
 - *October 9
 - *November 13
 - *December 11
- Open Mail

6. Motions to take Action

7. **Adjournment:** 8:11pm motion: DG second: KS